

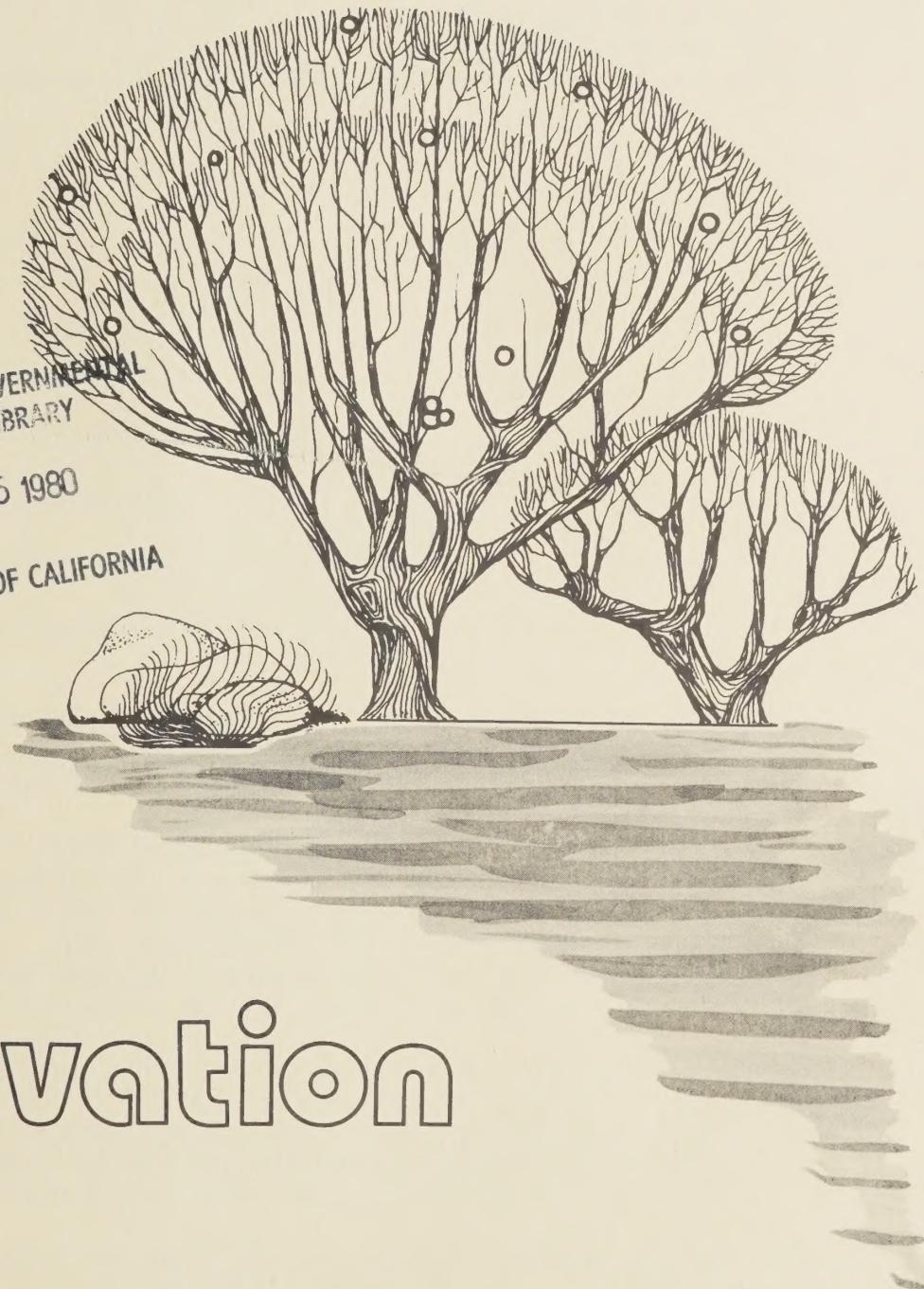
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# conservation and open space plan



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600 South Commonwealth Avenue • Suite 1000 • Los Angeles • California • 90005 • 213/385-1000

January 25, 1977

TO: All Interested Parties  
FROM: Mark Pisano, Executive Director *[Handwritten signature]*  
SUBJECT: Final Draft Conservation and Open Space Plan

Attached is a copy of the final draft of the Conservation and Open Space Plan which has been prepared by the SCAG staff after a three year effort. The final Environmental Impact Report is a part of this report.

Following the process begun in July 1976, this plan has been submitted to all of the SCAG committees, governmental agencies and the public for additional input. A public hearing was held to receive comment on the environmental report. This draft of the plan and environmental report has been corrected and amended as suggested by oral and written comments received from the past reviews and the public hearing.

The Conservation and Open Space Plan is intended to be a policy guide for the Southern California region for the conservation of our natural resources and the preservation of open space lands. The plan recognizes open space as a natural resource in itself and its maintenance as one of the principal methods of conserving other resources as well.

We would appreciate your review of and any further comments you may have on this final draft. Please direct your comments to Brian Farris of the SCAG staff by March 4, 1977.



8100228

FINAL DRAFT

CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

DECEMBER 1976



The preparation of this report was financed in part through a comprehensive planning grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development under the provisions of Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended.



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## CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

### S U M M A R Y

This document is the Conservation and Open Space Plan for the City of Lakewood, Colorado. It is the result of a process that began in 1992 with the formation of a citizens' task force to study the city's natural resources and develop recommendations for their protection. The task force was composed of citizens from all walks of life who were interested in the preservation of the natural environment. They conducted surveys, interviewed experts, and studied various models of conservation planning. The final report, "Conservation and Open Space Plan," was adopted by the City Council in 1994. This summary provides an overview of the plan's goals, objectives, and recommendations.

The plan identifies key natural resources in the city, including wetlands, forests, and water bodies. It also identifies areas of concern, such as habitat fragmentation and loss of biodiversity. The plan's goals are to protect these resources, promote sustainable development, and encourage public participation in conservation efforts. The plan's objectives include the establishment of a conservation system, the protection of critical habitats, and the promotion of environmental education and awareness. The plan's recommendations include the creation of a conservation system, the protection of critical habitats, and the promotion of environmental education and awareness.

The plan's implementation will involve the City Council, the City Manager, and other city agencies. It will also involve the community through public hearings, workshops, and other outreach activities. The plan's success will depend on the commitment of the city and its residents to protecting the natural environment.

## S U M M A R Y

### Contents of the Plan

The Conservation and Open Space Plan is arranged in four parts. Following this summary is the Plan Report with the Introductory section, a Conservation section, an Open Space section, and a final section on Areas of Regional Significance and Concern.

The plan includes statements of goals, policies, plan maps, proposed implementation actions, and discussion of the areas of regional significance and concern. The plan maps further delineate the regional conservation and open space policies and implementation techniques.

This plan is intended to be consistent with the plans and policies of local governments within the SCAG region. It goes beyond them in many areas to make specific proposals on matters of regional importance. State and federal plans are also incorporated.

### Organization of the Plan

The Introduction is the first section of the plan. It sets forth SCAG's basic positions on conservation and open space, the intended use of the plan by SCAG and other agencies, and the recommended plan adoption process and action plan.

The Conservation section addresses the basic natural resource conservation issues of the region. In a sense resource conservation is the primary driving force of the plan. The Conservation goals and policies cover a wide range of subjects. The preservation of open space lands is one of the most powerful tools for resource conservation.

The Open Space section is directly concerned with the preservation and enhancement of the region's open space lands and the conservation of the natural resources

included within them. In this way it differs from the conservation section and brings specific open space issues into sharper focus. Conservation planning involves the development of plans and policies for the wise use of resources while open space planning designates specific areas for open space land preservation or reservation according to open space values and conservation policies.

The section on Areas of Regional Significance and Concern lists and evaluates the designated regional areas as those parts of the region which may receive priority consideration acquisition or other implementation action.

### Use of the Plan

SCAG intends to use the plan as a key reference in carrying out its planning and decision making responsibilities. A major SCAG function is the review and comment on applications for federal and state grant funds under OMB Circular A-95. This activity provides the opportunity for regional consideration of local area projects. In order to make informed and consistent decisions implementing regional policies, the Association prepares plans in several functional areas including open space and conservation, housing, transportation, environmental quality, and land use. Each of these plans are closely integrated among themselves and with other levels of government. The plans are based on the policies and projections of SCAG's Regional Development Guide. The Association recommends these plans to local and state agencies as a basic framework to which the plans of other jurisdictions can be related. The plans and the planning data increase the opportunities for coordination and cooperation among the various

local governments and improves and strengthens the regionwide planning and implementation process. The private sector is also encouraged to use the regional plans in their work with clients.

#### Features of the Plan

Upon adoption by the Executive Committee, the plan becomes Association policy and will be used as such in regional planning and decision making. Specifically, the features of the plan includes these items:

Regional Goals, Objectives and Policies for conservation and open space;

Action Plan, which gives the SCAG planning and revision process, and SCAG's implementation activities;

Implementation actions, both those that can be undertaken by SCAG and those recommended to other levels of government;

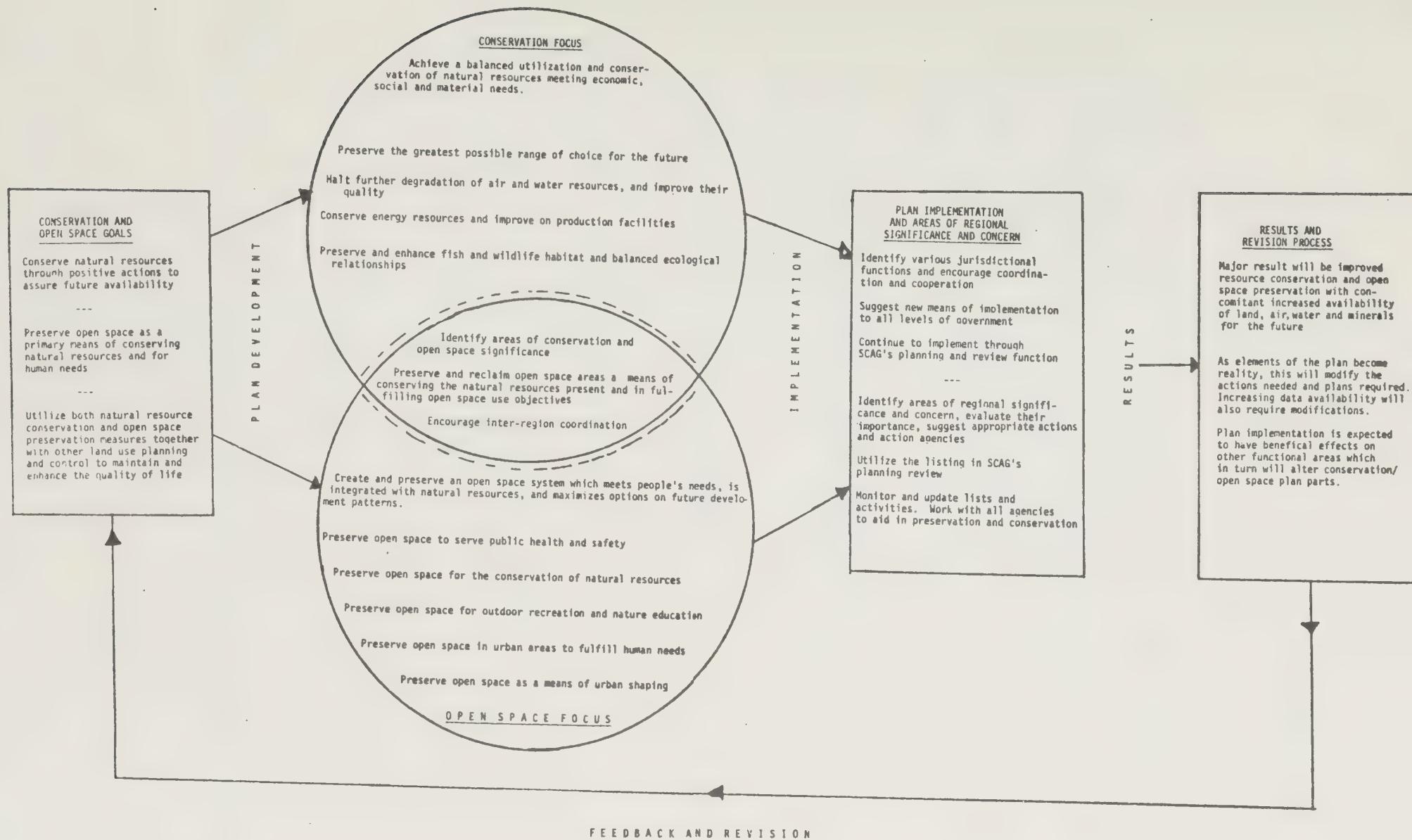
Plan Maps which indicate conservation and open space;

Evaluation of Areas of Regional Significance and Concern;

The intent of the plan is to aid the conservation of the region's natural resources in a variety of ways, and to help preserve the region's open space lands as a primary means of conservation.

The following page gives a schematic summary of the Conservation and Open Space Plan. It diagrams the relationships of the major parts and includes brief summaries of the policies and expected impacts.

**SCHEMATIC SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**



CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

I N T R O D U C T I O N

## INTRODUCTION

### FOCUS OF THE PLAN

It is becoming evident that the earth's resources are finite and that some, at least in readily available form, are nearing exhaustion. Added to this is worldwide rising affluence, expectations, and population, along with increasing demand for scarce resources which create unprecedented competition in the world markets. This inflates prices and reduces the availability of commodities and goods to the nation and region.

Increasing pressures and increasing scarcity create a quandary. On the one hand the need for land and resource conservation grows more acute daily, on the other hand demands on resources will continue to increase. In economic terms, the Southern California region, if sovereign, would rank high among the nations of the world. World events have direct effects on the SCAG area.

There should be a better balance between demand and supply. To accomplish this balance certain values may have to be compromised so that others can be achieved. An important way to alleviate the problems and find the balance is through careful planning for intelligent choices. The Conservation and Open Space Plan will guide the Association in its effort to aid in this process.

### DEFINITIONS

#### Conservation

Planned management of a resource to prevent exploitation, destruction or neglect.

## Open Space

Land or water which is essentially undeveloped and devoted to an open space use as defined in the following:

(A) Open space for the preservation of natural resources including, but not limited to:

1. areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life, including habitat for fish and wildlife species;
2. areas required for the ecologic and other scientific study purposes;
3. rivers, streams, bays and estuaries;
4. coastal beaches, lakeshores, banks of rivers and streams, and watershed lands;
5. oceans, airsheds, mountains, deserts
6. scenic resources

(B) Open space used for the managed production of resources, including but not limited to:

1. forest lands, rangeland, agricultural lands and areas of economic importance for the production of food or fiber;
2. areas required for recharge of ground water basins;
3. bays, estuaries, marshes, rivers and streams which are important for the management of commercial fisheries;
4. areas containing major mineral deposits.

(C) Open space for outdoor recreation, including but not limited to:

1. areas of outstanding scenic, historic, scientific, archeologic and cultural value;
2. areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes, including access to lakeshores, beaches, and streams;
3. areas which serve as links between major recreation and open-space reservations, including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, flood control channels, trails and scenic highway corridors.

(D) Open space for public health and safety, including but not limited to:

1. areas which require special management or regulations because of hazardous or special conditions such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, flood plains, watersheds;
2. areas presenting high fire risks, areas required for the protection of water quality and water reservoirs;
3. and areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality.

(E) Open space for urban shaping:

1. area designed to guide urban growth into already urbanized areas or in areas adjacent to urbanized lands to preserve open space lands and contribute to the efficiency of public services.

(F) Open space for public well-being:

1. a special category indicating special emphasis on open space in heavily urbanized areas, especially those in low income, open space deficient areas.

#### Prime and Potential Prime Agricultural Lands

Prime Agricultural Lands are:

1. All land which qualifies for rating as Class I or Class II in the Soil Conservation Service's Land Use Capability classifications.
2. Land which qualifies for rating 80 through 100 in the Storie Index Rating.
3. Land which supports livestock used for the production of food and fiber and which has an annual carrying capacity equivalent to at least one animal unit per acre as defined by the US Department of Agriculture.
4. Land planted with fruit or nut-bearing trees, vines, bushes or crops which have a nonbearing period of less than five years and which will normally return during the commercial bearing period on an annual basis from the production of unprocessed agricultural plant production not less than \$200 per acre.

5. Land which has returned from the production of unprocessed agricultural plant products an annual gross value of not less than \$200 per acre for three of the previous five years.

Potential Prime Agricultural Lands are: lands which have the capacity of being made prime through normal agricultural investment and practices.

It should be stressed that the definition of prime agricultural land is fluid and as the needs of the region change so may the definition. The emphasis in the second definition is on the qualities of the land that may be used or developed.

#### Additional Related Definitions

These are provided to give a more complete picture of the factors related to conservation and open space planning and implementation.

##### "preservation"

The maintenance and protection of the environmental in its existing and/or natural state.

##### "ecology"

The totality or pattern of relations between organisms and their environment.

##### "environment"

The concept of environment has two basic and interrelated meanings:

- a. The complex of meteorological, soil and biotic factors that act upon an organism in its ecological community.
- b. The aggregate of physical, social and cultural conditions that influence the life of an individual or community.

##### "quality of life"

In the Association's context, quality of life includes the whole of the region's physical, economic, and social health and well being. It involves the maximization of opportunities for self-fulfillment by all persons.

##### "natural resources"

This includes all mineral and fossil fuel resources air and water, flora and fauna, and land forms. Humans are also a resource to be considered in planning.

(D) Open space for public health and safety, including but not limited to:

1. areas which require special management or regulations because of hazardous or special conditions such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, flood plains, watersheds;
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##### "natural resources"

This includes all mineral and fossil fuel resources air and water, flora and fauna, and land forms. Humans are also a resource to be considered in planning.

**"watershed"**

The total area above a given point on a stream that contributes water to the flow at that point.

**"human resources"**

This includes those resources which affect the aggregate of external conditions conditions influencing the life and development of an individual, society, etc.

**"heritage resources"**

These are significant resources of history, architecture, archeology, and culture that poses integrity of location, design setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and:

- (1) That are associated with events in our history;
- (2) That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- (3) That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values.
- (4) That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory.

## PURPOSE AND USE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of the plan is to present regional conservation and open Space goals, policies, and plan maps as an aid in regionwide planning and decision making. The plan will be used by SCAG and will be recommended to other agencies for local, regional and state use.

The Association is directed by OMB Circular A-95 to review applications for federal grants for their regional implications. Similar work is done for state grants. In order to do this work properly, SCAG prepares regional plans to provide the basis for review and comment. The Association plans in the areas of conservation and open space, transportation, housing, criminal justice, environmental quality, water quality, human services, and comprehensive land use policy. All these plans are closely coordinated to ensure consistency among them and are based on the Regional Development Guide - a comprehensive land use and policy plan for the region. Compliance with these comments is usually voluntary.

Because of the broad regional nature of the plan, it is necessarily very general in its recommendations. It is intended for further refinement at the regional level, and especially at the local level where the majority of plan implementation activity will occur. No acreage figures are given for the conservation and open space areas shown on the plan maps because of this general nature and the need for maximum flexibility of local government action.

The Association also promotes regional coordination and cooperation among the cities and counties within the SCAG region. The information dissemination and the dialogues initiated during the planning process help provide a framework within which local agency plans can be related.

### About SCAG

Southern California is a patchwork of cities and counties, and the traditional lines formed by these jurisdictions are crossed by the problems of transportation, air and water quality, solid waste disposal, housing, open space and land use.

In order to deal more effectively with these areawide concerns, elected officials in the six counties in the region joined together in 1965 under the Joint Exercise of Powers Section of the California Government Code to form the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

Today, SCAG serves the needs of more than 10 million residents who live within the 38,000 square mile region. It provides a forum for participation in the decisions that affect the future of Southern California and reinforces the decisions with the adoption of specific goals, policies and actions.

SCAG membership includes the county governments of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura and Imperial, plus the governments of nearly 130 cities within these counties.

### ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAN

The Conservation and Open Space Plan is organized into four parts. It begins with this Introductory section. It is followed by the Conservation Section and then the Open Space Section. Finally, the Areas of Regional Significance section lists many of the identified areas for special attention.

The Introduction outlines the general principles and uses of the plan. The Conservation Section focuses on natural resource conservation and contains goals, policies and plan maps indicating SCAG's policy positions. In a sense, natural resources conservation is the driving force of the plan. It is a broad field of interest of which open space preservation is a vital part. Therefore, the Open Space Section addresses both resources conservation and open space protection. It stands on its own as a plan element and as an important tool for implementing

conservation policies. The Areas of Regional Significance and Concern section provides listings of areas, values and recommendations which are intended to serve as a comprehensive (as far as this is possible) assembly of significant sites which require specialized and individual treatment in public and private decisions.

It must be stressed that since open space and conservation are such closely related areas they are heavily interdependent and therefore, are not really divisible. The two sections are meant to be used together.

## REGIONAL GOALS

For the conservation of natural resources and preservation of open space within the Southern California region; the Association's goals are to:

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- . Achieve the maximum conservation of natural resources through positive exercise of all available planning, administrative and educational techniques to ensure the availability of these resources to present and future generations.
  
  - . Preserve the region's open space lands to the greatest extent possible to conserve the lands natural resources, provide for sufficient food and fiber production and for relief from the pressures of urbanization.
  
  - . Utilize the conservation of natural resources and open space preservation in close coordination with other Association land use planning and control methods to maintain and enhance the quality of life throughout the region.
- 
-

## PLANNING PROCESS AND ACTION PLAN

### Planning Process

This plan was prepared by the SCAG staff, working with land use and recreation planners from a number of the member cities, and counties, the state and federal governments and interested citizens. The draft will be reviewed and commented upon by a technical committee of land use and recreation planners, and submitted to SCAG's Environmental Quality and Resource Conservation Committee (EQRC). The EQRC Committee is composed of elected officials and makes recommendations on policy matters to the Executive Committee. Upon EQRC Committee adoption, the plan is forwarded to the policy-setting Executive Committee for consideration. Upon Executive Committee adoption, the Conservation and Open Space Plan becomes Association policy to be implemented by SCAG. It is published and widely distributed.

### Action Plan

The goals, policies and plan maps are to be used as a guide to SCAG actions and the information contained in the plan will play a part in numerous decisions. It is to be used in A-95 grant review, and as input to other SCAG plans (which in turn are being used to guide comment in grant review). The plan is to be recommended to state, federal and local governmental agencies for use as a planning input, together with the technical information developed for the report. SCAG stresses the use of regional goals and policies.

The Plan is in general conformance with the plans of local governments with modifications where regional policy varies or aids in the linkage of local plans. Local agency conformance to regional land use plans is voluntary. The Association hopes that its plans will assist local governments in working in concert on regional issues. SCAG will operate under its own policy set and intends to continue to work with all levels of government to achieve optimum cooperation.

When local agencies modify their plans, SCAG requests that they notify the Association so that the input can be used. In SCAG's planning process many local agencies take part and all are provided with its products.

During the Conservation and Open Space planning process, work has been continuing on the regional Outdoor Recreation Plan and Capital Improvement Program which is updated yearly by SCAG. The CIP is a five year program listing proposals for regional recreation facilities and supplying a priority setting technique.

Upon distribution of the adopted Conservation and Open Space Plan, comments and feedback are to be solicited as the first step toward plan revision. The Association recognizes that effective planning is a dynamic and evolving process and that changing conditions must always be reflected in the plans.

While feedback is being obtained, the research into the natural resources inventory, policies planning, and work on areas of significance and critical concern is to continue. Periodic revisions of local agency Conservation and Open Space Plans are to be closely monitored also. The Plan will undergo regular review and refinement to improve its accuracy and utility. In approximately five years after initial adoption, a major revision of the plan should be undertaken to reflect the changing region.

CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

CONSERVATION SECTION

## CONSERVATION SECTION

### ISSUES, PROBLEMS, OPPORTUNITIES

To begin this section a brief discussion of some issues, problems, and opportunities is helpful. These points provide background for the development of policies and plan maps which follow.

#### Relationships among issues, problems and opportunities

Issues, problems and opportunities are not mutually exclusive. Instead, they grade into each other.

An issue is a point of debate or controversy.

A problem is an unsettled question and a source of vexation, hardship or disruption.

An opportunity is a favorable juncture of circumstances which gives a good chance for advancement or progress.

#### What are the Issues?

The new relationship of mankind to his environment and to future generations - Man must be more attentive to environmental concerns or face potentially disastrous consequences for the long term outlook.

Future urban form and land use - Men have lived together in settlements for thousands of years. Especially since the Industrial Revolution people have congregated in large groups for manufacture and trade. The necessity for clustering in very large urban areas is perhaps becoming less imperative as alternative urban configurations raise different sets of problems.

Future rural land use - The multiple pressures of agricultural production, resource extraction, energy production and recreation combine to pose difficult management choices.

Conservation and production of natural resources - These resources can roughly be classed as renewable and nonrenewable. Renewable resources (such as

forests) need careful management. Nonrenewable resources (such as fossil fuels) need to be carefully husbanded to minimize waste. To avoid irreversible commitments, options must be held open for future choices. Recyclable materials may be viewed as a third class of resources which can greatly aid in the conservation of the first two.

The future use of natural resources other than the consumables -

Recreation, silence, solitude, and other intangibles are essential subjects for action in the face of diminishing opportunities.

The discovery of new natural resources and new uses for old ones - This can profoundly affect conservation practices. The issue lies in their wise development and use.

Life style - It is becoming more clear that we cannot continue to expand or even possibly maintain high consumption life styles. Since most natural resources are finite, a change in life styles will be necessary to maintain the health of the region. This extremely difficult question must be dealt with directly.

Cost of materials and Social Equity - The impending scarcity of most commodities will cause prices to rise at the first sign of depletion - placing an additional burden on those who can least afford it.

What are the Problems?

Urban Expansion - The expansion of urban uses onto non-urban lands can cause a number of interrelated problems.

- a. The expansion of primary urban uses to non-urban land, often onto essential resource production or conservation areas.
- b. The expansion of urban supporting facilities such as power lines, roads and transportation facilities onto non-urban land.
- c. Increased demand for resources due to urban expansion life style changes, technology, and population growth. These include demands for energy, water, building materials, and other consumer and capital goods, far exceeding those available in the region or, in many cases, the state or nation.
- c. Increased demand for agricultural lands and conversion of natural areas to agriculture. This is caused by growth of domestic demand and an

Increased worldwide demand for commodities.

e. Threat to the irreplaceable paleontological, archeological and historical resources of the region caused by all aspects of urban growth including recreational growth.

f. Scattered "leapfrog" urban development forcing the inefficient extension of urban services across undeveloped land to serve the new areas. This also results in inefficient uses of transportation energy to travel among separated areas. It increases urbanization pressures on the land between the city and detached suburb and makes it very difficult to use this land for non-urban purposes. Note, however, that at certain scales and with balanced land use, leapfrogging may be beneficial in strengthening quasi-independent urban centers.

g. Increasing production of wastes and pollutants exceeding natural absorption capabilities of regional ecosystems without institution of very complex and costly disposal techniques. Pollution of regional ecosystems then further diminishes resources production capabilities and quality of life.

Increase per capita demand - In addition to the environmental demands created by urbanization and population growth, are the rising expectations of the population being served. Increased per capita demand for goods and services is placing severe strain on the regions' natural resources.

Increased demand for outdoor recreation - There is increasing use of the outdoors for recreation. Public interest in camping, hiking, nature study and other outdoor pursuits increases human pressure on desirable natural areas.

New and expanding recreational activities - "new games", boating, ORV use, hang gliding, etc.. also increase the amount and variety of facilities required.

Governmental and Institutional Fragmentation - The division of government into many small entities is a familiar condition throughout the country. Six counties, over 150 cities, nearly a thousand special districts and myriad branches of the state and federal governments operate within the SCAG region.

This often leads to conflicting programs, duplications of effort and difficult

interagency coordination.

Lack of specific knowledge - There is a serious lack of knowledge on the operations of natural systems and the effects of man's actions upon them. This gap can result in serious adverse consequences for well intentioned acts. While planning must continue on the basis of incomplete knowledge, it is vital that research continue to enable more informed decision-making.

Changing social and economic conditions - There are continuing serious disparities of opportunity for different segments of society; inflation, the slowdown of economic growth, and mounting costs of government leading to severe limits on public dollar resources and private investment; attitudes of alienation, cynicism and distrust limiting commitments to longer range public purposes. The deterioration of existing urban areas is both a symptom and a cause of many problems and must be directly addressed. Social problems of crime, poor education and unemployment are causing major population shifts in the SCAG area (i.e. "white flight").

#### What are the Opportunities?

Wider Intergovernmental Cooperation - Both formal and informal mechanisms exist for increased coordination and cooperation among city, county, state and federal governments. All channels of communication are receiving greater use and this is expected to continue.

Better utilization of plans - There is an increasing acceptance of planning as a powerful decision making tool, and a more positive use of plan documents. Recent legislation mandates the preparation of certain plan elements and zoning conformance. Recent court decisions strengthen the ability of local agencies to control land use through police powers. New mechanisms for conservation and open space protection are being developed and utilized.

Reduced Growth Rates - Recent demographic trends demonstrate that a major reduction in population growth rates is occurring in the region, state and nation. Whether this will be a continuing trend is an open question, but every indication is that it will become so. SCAG now forecasts that the Region's population will reach 12.8 million persons by 1995, 2.3 million more than the 1975

population. (see SCAG-76 Growth Forecast Policy, Jan. 1976). This level of growth is considerably below those levels experienced in the 1950's and '60's. This lowering of growth rates will provide an opportunity to shift direction and lower pressures on resources and natural holding capacities.

While overall growth rates will be lowered, certain portions of the region are still to experience fairly rapid rates of urbanization. Particularly fast growth areas include Southeast Orange County, the Oxnard Plain, the Corona-Riverside-Ontario areas, and West San Fernando Valley.

The "Energy Crisis" and Improved Technology - After a long feast of cheap and abundant energy, the long predicted energy crisis suddenly appeared in 1973. Signaled at first by local shortages of gasoline and electric power, it was precipitated by world events over which the region had no control. The nation was left with but one logical course of action: conserve fuel while exploring every alternative means for energy production. It may be a number of years before energy becomes plentiful again, and it will never again be cheap enough to waste.

Whatever the causes or reality of the energy crisis, its effects impinge upon everyone, and it may well invoke sweeping changes in American life - changes whose impacts can be only dimly perceived at this time.

Beyond the immediate and very serious disruptions caused by the shortage, this situation creates both a threat and an opportunity for open space and conservation. It could provoke a large scale weakening of recent environmental laws in the effort to develop, transport and use domestic fuels. It could also lead to a new awareness of the finiteness and fragility of natural resources.

The "Southern California life style" could be especially affected. Based upon the private automobile and low density housing, it depends on inexpensive gasoline and electricity. These things are now becoming quite costly, and people may once again turn to public transit, greater utilization of the carrying capacity of existing vehicles, and multiple dwellings. The sprawl city of suburb, shopping

center and freeway may become less desirable, or at least less available. The emphasis will be on limiting unnecessary travel and providing more efficient heating and cooling. Land in urban areas close to jobs may be recycled for new dwelling units as an alternative to continuing fringe area expansion. There also may be increased pressure on local and regional recreational facilities rather than on recreation outside the region.

Building upon the above presentation of issues, problems and opportunities, and the overall goals given in the Introduction, the following conservation objectives bridge between the desired ends and the specific means to obtain them.

## NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

The natural resource conservation objectives of the Association are to:

1. Achieve a balanced utilization and conservation of natural resources throughout the region which meets the needs of inhabitants for economic, social and material needs.
2. Preserve and enhance the quality of life for present and future generations by preventing misuse and degradation of natural resources, taking steps to remedy any misuse of the resources, restoring damaged natural areas and by seeking an optimum balance between long-term and short-term benefits to be derived from the region's natural resources.
3. Provide the greatest possible range of choices for the use of natural resources for future generations.
4. Protect, regulate and preserve valuable natural resources of the region which are irreplaceable and nonrenewable.
5. Conserve those natural resources which are necessary to insure the adequate and continuing fulfillment of physical and mental health needs for residents of the region.
6. Minimize disruption of prime agricultural soils, slopes, riverbeds, sand dunes, fault zones and other natural geologic features.
7. Halt further degradation of air resources and improve air quality to standards consistent with healthy human, animal and plant life.
8. Halt further pollution and depletion of water resources and provide for an adequate future supply of high quality water.
9. Conserve energy resources and develop environmentally non-damaging methods for their production and utilization.
10. Preserve habitats for natural and introduced plant life and protect animal species with limited or specialized habitat requirements.

11. Preserve and enhance fish and wildlife habitat in all areas of the region, including the ocean.
12. Provide all citizens with an adequate quantity and quality of natural resource recreation lands.
13. Increase the knowledge, awareness and appreciation of the critical relationships of the natural environment.
14. Protect and preserve those natural resources which can provide educational opportunities for present and future generations.
15. Identify and preserve opportunities associated with significant Heritage Resources.
16. Support opportunities for educating people in conservation .
17. Support rural zoning which minimizes losses due to wildfire .
18. Recycle and reuse resources of all types whenever environmentally beneficial.

To achieve these general conservation objectives, more specific plan policies are needed. The following policy statements set forth actions SCAG will take to gain the objectives, and are recommended for consideration to all governmental agencies. These policies cover many areas of conservation, but are not intended to be all inclusive. Certain areas, such as detailed air and water quality policies, have been left out because SCAG prepares specific plans on these. Other policy areas await further development as part of SCAG's ongoing planning process.

## NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION POLICIES

### General Policies

SCAG shall -

1. Encourage the identification of areas of conservation and open space significance by appropriate agencies and the limitation of uses to those compatible with the area's values and qualities. Responsible local and regional agencies shall be encouraged to limit urbanization of areas of significant ecologic, airshed, or watershed value, recreation lands, heritage resources, agricultural lands, and lands subject to geologic, flood, fire or other safety hazards.
2. Encourage urban patterns that avoid sprawl and discourage urbanization in areas which might burden the general taxpayer with excessive public facilities and service costs.
3. Encourage coordinated regional effort to achieve assessment practices which are compatible with and supportive of general plans, and work toward an integrated planning/zoning/assessment system.
4. Support conservation of the region's key physical land features -- natural watercourses, canyons, mountains and hills, shorelines, islands, desert areas, palm canyons and oases, soils, and significant vegetation and wild-life areas -- as indicated in local and regional conservation and open space plans.
5. Support conservation of the region's marine resources; preserve remaining estuaries and lagoons and other unique inshore water habitats; restore such areas where feasible.
6. Support conservation of areas of unique, representative, and/or fragile ecology needed for education or scientific research.

7. Identify areas of regional significance and concern and develop programs for their conservation.
8. Actively encourage protection of natural physical features of scenic, recreational, educational, or ecological value, giving emphasis to areas most threatened.
9. Encourage identification and preservation of significant heritage resources.
10. Support management of renewable natural resources for sustained yield.
11. Support conservation of lands having essential mineral resources, and/or support extraction only in accordance with the jurisdiction's adopted conservation element and pursuant to an officially accepted operations and rehabilitation plan, or ordinance.
12. Actively encourage development of new energy sources as well as new technology especially solar, which will conserve existing sources. Exploration of undeveloped sources, such as offshore oil, should be done in accordance with regional and local policies and priorities.
13. Actively encourage the conservation of all forms of energy in all sectors of the economy and by individual citizens.
14. Support the protection of threatened and endangered flora and fauna and their habitat requirements.
15. Support the use and limitation of off-road vehicles to designated suitable areas.
16. Encourage the restoration of damaged natural areas.
17. Encourage and support the recycling of waste products to conserve natural resources.
18. Encourage various means of water conservation and water reclamation within this water-short region.
19. Support the conservation of open space to improve the region's air quality -by supporting actions and programs which will restrict emissions from commercial, agricultural, domestic, industrial and recreational sources. -by promoting and supporting those emission reduction programs, including land use and transportation use controls and systems, which will achieve and maintain air quality of the region to that required by state and federal ambient air quality standards.
20. Support the stabilization and restoration of heritage resources.

## Agricultural Policies

SCAG shall -

1. Utilize its planning and A-95 review responsibilities to promote conservation of all lands now in agricultural use plus prime and potential prime agricultural lands to forestall change in use or deterioration of the region's agricultural capabilities. Adopted local agricultural policies shall be recognized in this work.
2. Support activities which would lead to increases in sustained yield agricultural production, consistent with good environmental quality.
3. Promote research and utilization of methods to maximize the availability and effectiveness of inputs (water, energy, fertilizers, etc.) into agricultural production to achieve the greatest sustainable yield per unit of effort or resource expended, while minimizing environmental disruption or pollution.
4. Promote the efficient transportation, processing and distribution of agricultural products.
5. Encourage grazing practices which will increase the productivity and the carrying capacities of grazing lands within the SCAG region.

## Soils and Mineral Policies

1. Encourage the protection, restoration and improvement of soils in valuable agricultural lands, watersheds, hillsides, erosion-damaged areas, and flood-prone areas.
2. Use all available means to protect prime and potentially prime agricultural lands from inappropriate use, waste or destruction. Prime and potentially prime agricultural lands are those as described in state law.
3. Encourage strong conservation actions for the known locations of mineral commodities for which there is high user demand in urban areas (e.g. sand and gravel).
4. Promote the efficient use of minerals and mineral products and recycling where feasible.

5. Encourage reclamation and revegetation of lands disturbed by strip mining of surface or near surface deposits. Strip mining should only occur in areas where underground mining is not feasible and where it will not seriously degrade surrounding areas.
6. Consider the recovery of salines from geothermal brines as a supplemental source of these minerals.

#### Energy Production and Conservation Policies

SCAG shall -

1. Promote the study and development of potential geothermal resources for electric power generation as an alternative to fossil fueled or nuclear power plants. Determine its environmental impacts and require that geothermal development utilize proper safeguards to prevent air and water pollution, and adverse impacts on wildlife, vegetation, cultural values, etc.
2. Continue to monitor research into alternative energy sources (solar, wind, fusion, etc.) and incorporate into plans as appropriate.
3. Promote the conservation of oil and gas in all its uses.
4. Support conservation measures which will conserve the greatest amount of energy consistent with maintaining and meeting the needs of the region's residents.
5. Encourage the development of new power generation plants, petroleum refineries and other supply facilities only when they are necessary to fulfill demonstrated need, and where they will cause the least environmental disruption consistent with regional energy, environmental and comprehensive planning policies.
6. Encourage the utilization of onshore oil and gas deposits, including secondary and tertiary extraction methods, consistent with land use and environmental safeguards.

7. Support appropriate construction of oil and gas transmission facilities as part of an overall production and delivery program.
8. Urge that the utilization of oil and gas in the offshore state tidelands and outer continental shelf be in accordance with the Association and local policies and concerns.

#### Heritage Resources

SCAG shall -

1. Encourage the identification and preservation of significant sites by all available means and levels of government. Especially stressed is the preservation of designated local, state and national sites and monuments.
2. Encourage the strengthening of laws for site preservation and appropriate tax relief for the owners of designated sites who preserve those sites.
3. Encourage public access to the sites for scientific, recreation and educational purposes consistent with proper protection, preservation and maintenance of the resource.
4. Encourage and facilitate the development of historic preservation elements of land use plans.

#### Timber Management Policies

1. Promote the management of timber stands on the National Forests within the SCAG region to maintain and enhance timber, watershed and recreation values.
2. Promote multiple use benefits commensurate with the special relationships that exist between timber treatment and protection and use of timbered areas for recreation, watershed and wildlife.
3. Encourage the harvesting of trees to provide for the maintenance of a healthy, thrifty, vigorous, suitably stocked, near-natural-appearing Recreational Forest stand.
4. Develop a well stocked and healthy forest by a forestation and reforestation of appropriate non-stocked areas that exist within the timbered areas on the National Forests. Also encourage type conversion where forest health will benefit.

## Water Quality Policies

SCAG is engaged in a comprehensive water management planning effort under the EPA "208" program. The following policies will apply pending the completion of this process.

### SCAG shall -

1. Support development of water, sewer, flood control, and solid waste facilities in such a way as to minimize disruption of the ecological balance of the environment and to enhance natural habitats.
2. Discourage extension of water and sewer systems into areas where environmental problems indicate that development should not take place.
3. Support actions which will maximize the use of local water resources, including reclaimed wastewater, consistent with protection of the groundwater supply.
4. Support only that phased construction of water and waste disposal facilities which implements comprehensive planning objectives outlined in these policies.
5. Support only those water and waste disposal facilities for which extensive environmental impact analyses have been conducted.
6. Support only those water resource, sewage treatment, and flood control facilities for which are in conformance with SCAG's adopted growth policies.
7. In carrying out its review functions, take steps to insure that agencies responsible for establishing and enforcing water quality standards are advised of projects that may impact water quality standards.
8. Actively support the vigorous enforcement of local, state, and federal anti-pollution laws.
9. Support the coordination and consolidation of water resource management agencies where they will serve to minimize fragmentation and duplication of services and eliminate those facilities which provide services.

## Implementation Agencies and Programs

### Local Government

Provision of Local Services - local government is responsible for the provision of local services within its jurisdiction. It is directly responsible to its electorate and is the most sensitive and responsive to local needs and concerns.

Implementation of State and Federal Programs - many of these programs are funded by state and federal governments but are administered by local agencies. These may be either voluntary or mandatory.

Land Use Control - local government has the power to control land use within its boundaries thorough planning, zoning and permit authority. These powers are delegated by the state and their use must conform to state law. The state has also mandated certain planning requirements.

Conservation and Open Space Plans - these plan elements guide the preservation of open space and the conservation of natural resources according to local needs and priorities.

Recreation and Open Space Facilities - cities, counties and some special districts are responsible for the provision of local, community and regional parks. Many state and federally owned lands are operated by local agencies.

### State Government

State Park System - purchase and operation of state recreational facilities.

1974 Bond Act - makes \$250 million available for the state park system and related activities, also grants to local agencies for park purposes.

State Grants - other outdoor recreation grants are available from the state including "SB 174" monies and occasional special legislation authorizing funds or placing lands on the ballot.

Department of Fish and Game and State Wildlife Conservation Board - operate

waterfowl and wildlife management areas and fish hatcheries, support by monies from State Fish and Game preservation fund and federal grants for similar purposes.

Department of Navigation and Ocean Development - small craft and water recreation facilities.

Outdoor Recreation - state has responsibility for decision making on grant awards for Land and Water Conservation Act funds.

Office of Historic Preservation - designated State Administrator for the National Historic Preservation Grants-in-did Program.

Other - administration of many federal grants for off road vehicles, bicycle trails, hiking trails, etc.

#### Federal Government

The Federal Government has the prime responsibility for the provision of grant funds to state and local agencies. The federal establishment administers federally owned lands and provides for national recreation and conservation areas through various agencies.

Some Federal programs operating in the region are:

Outdoor Recreation - (Land and Water Conservation) provides grants to local agencies on a matching basis for regional park and recreation and open space preservation.

Department of Agriculture - has several cooperative programs related to pollution abatement and conservation practices, watershed protection, tree farming and recreation facilities that supplement farm income. Major watershed, timber, forage, wildlife, minerals, wilderness and other resource management is done by the Forest Service, which provides numerous recreation sites and facilities for public use.

National Park Service - control of use and preservation of natural conditions, provision for outdoor recreation and facility for public use.

Historic preservation - grants to state to be used to plan and implement programs for preserving sites of historical, archeological and architectural significance on a matching basis.

Legacy of Parks - provides for disposal of surplus federal lands to local agencies for park and recreation and open space purposes at no cost or at below market prices.

Bureau of Land Management - control, planning, and recreation activities, primarily in the desert in this state. The BLM has a vehicle management plan for the desert and in conducting a major desertwide planning program. Also control offshore oil leasing in the federal outer continental shelf.

Corps of Engineers - planning and flood protection activities, coastline management, some recreation facilities.

Flood Plain Protection - makes available federal flood insurance administered by HUD for areas with identified hazards from 100-year floods. To get insurance, committees must adopt and enforce minimum flood plain management regulations, including non-structural methods.

Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife - wildlife management

Miscellaneous Funding - is possible through numerous other federal grants which are highly specialized.

### Regional Planning Agencies

Metropolitan Clearinghouse - designated metropolitan clearinghouses (such as SCAG) are directed by OMB Circular A-95 to review and comment on applications for federal and state grants.

Regional Planning - comprehensive land use, conservation and open space environmental quality, housing, human services, and transportation planning is done by SCAG. These provide guidance for SCAG decision making and input to other agency plans.

### Special Districts

Park and Recreation Districts - provide a major share of the recreation facilities in the region. These are created to provide regional parks, regional and local, or simply local facilities. The districts have property taxing authority.

Flood Control Districts - are not formed primarily for recreation and open space, but are working to allow recreation and open space use of their considerable holdings. Flood control channels provide an excellent open space network and some dams can be used for recreation. These linear facilities can help provide open space in otherwise crowded parts of the cities.

Other Special Districts - include water districts which maintain large holdings at their reservoirs which are open space (many are open for recreation too) and sanitation districts which use reclaimed water to water adjacent parks.

## IMPLEMENTATION TECHNIQUES

From the outset of this report, the supportive role of "open space to the concept of conservation" has been noted. Conservation as the program whereby resources are managed, relies in large part on open space programs to control the uses associated with these factors. The Conservation Plan and inventory document, among other things, show the region's natural resources and hazards. The areas in which these are located in turn become logically suited for open space use. The areas naturally suited for open space form the basis of the Open Space Plan. The implementation of the Open Space Plan, then, is a very important means of implementing the Conservation Plan. Therefore, the positive means for implementing both plans are discussed here.

If the Open Space Plan is fundamental to the full realization of the Conservation Plan, then the means by which these plans are implemented need to be examined also.

### Survey of Acquisition and Implementation Techniques

Acquiring land for the purpose of conservation or open space can take two basic forms. One method is the acquisition of the full title of the land. This allows for the most complete control of the land, but the expense is often prohibitive. Less than full fee techniques involve the securing of some of the rights attached to a piece of property. There are many means by which these two types of acquisition can be accomplished.

#### Full Fee or Full Title Acquisition

Outright Purchase of privately held land through price negotiation is the most direct means of acquiring property. It is also the most expensive.

Purchase of Surplus State or Federal Land can sometimes be made by a local agency. A discount of 50% off the market value or more is often given if the land is used for parks or recreation. The Bureau of Land Management has offered land to local governments for as little as \$2.50 an acre. Some programs allow for direct gifts or exchanges of land.

Tax Foreclosure can transfer tax delinquent properties to public ownership.

Excess Condemnation is a procedure by which more land than is needed for a non-park public project could be acquired by eminent domain, with the excess being used for open space.

Dedication Requirements are a source of land or money for park use from developers of new tracts. (The Quimby Act enables cities and counties to set their dedication or in lieu payment requirements).

Gifts from individuals or sale at reduced or nominal costs, can result in land for the public and tax benefits for the donor.

Land Trusts or Stewardships by non-profit organizations like the Nature Conservancy maintain revolving funds for this purpose.

Installment Purchases will transfer the title to the public agencies following the final payment.

Purchase and Leaseback is a method for holding the rights to property that is not going to come under immediate city or county use. After purchase, the land can be leased back to the original owner allowing him to continue using it as in the past. This method gives the public agency an income and prevents the need for it to maintain the land while it protects the land use.

Purchase Option to Buy in the Future gives the public agency the first right of refusal in the event of a sale.

Land Exchange does not require funding. A major drawback is the difficulty in finding parcels of like value for the exchange. The Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service use this method to acquire lands.

Purchase With the Return of Life Interest allows the sellers to retain, and use their property. At the death of the owner, the land becomes public property. This has its major appeal to persons who reside on their property, rather than to holders of commercial types of land.

Purchase (through eminent domain) provides a means whereby the jurisdiction may purchase land from unwilling owners but requires immediate payment and somewhat higher costs. Currently, this method is only available for the acquisition of park lands. Pending legislation would allow its use for open space acquisition as well.

Lease-Leaseback is land acquired by the jurisdiction and leased to a private company to construct recreational improvements, which in turn leases back to the public agency for operation.

Land Banking is not an implementation technique in itself, but a means by which local government can acquire and hold land, at current prices, for a designated future use. This would eliminate the impacts of inflation and, while the land would be off the tax rolls, it could be used to produce revenue.

#### Less Than Fee Acquisition

An easement , for access or scenic purposes, is a limited use of land which is owned by another party. The length of use or control over certain rights may be designated by the parties involved. This system has the advantages of being usable for small land parcels; keeping the land on the tax rolls; the land remains productive; the public is not responsible for maintenance; and no person is evicted from his land. Disadvantages may be nearly as high as for full fee acquisition; this system tends to be inflexible, and it must be negotiated with owners. Prescriptive rights (usually by suit) have also been used to maintain existing access.

Purchase and Resale with Deed Restrictions is a system that allows an agency to control an area's development permanently, but the land is

eventually resold to private owners. This returns the land to the tax rolls and also returns the money invested by the agency.

Long Term Lease is another possibility. However, a time limit exists, and the agency would have to provide for the rental payments.

Licensing can be used to procure such things as hunting or fishing rights on private land. As with a lease, this would force the local jurisdiction to provide continuous payments with no return past the time of expiration of license.

Public Works Potentials are numerous types of land acquisitions for municipal services that have potential for supplemental open space. Examples include power line rights-of-way, areas around water and sewer plants, civic buildings, libraries, fire stations, etc.

Development Rights allows for retention of an area in an undeveloped or non-urban use such as agriculture or watershed. A jurisdiction may acquire the development rights from the property owner so that the owner is limited to non-development uses and is taxed accordingly.

Regulation is a non-acquisition method of preserving open space. Local government can control the use of the property through the exercise of the police power. This regulatory process requires no compensation unless control results in the prohibition of any reasonable use. A supplementary system of compensation is sometimes added when severe restrictions are imposed on the property.

#### The Zoning Ordinance

Zoning is a non-compensatory form of regulation. It has the advantages of not costing a city or county anything, either in terms of cash outlay or tax revenues lost (except if it results in reduced assessments). In regards to open space, a zoning ordinance might include:

Hillside Development Zoning includes regulating the use of specified types of steep slope areas.

Cluster Zoning attempts to concentrate the landowner's development on a portion of his property, thus leaving some land open. This may best be combined with hillside and hazard zoning.

Hazard Zones might be delineated to protect people and property.

Geologic risk zones include areas of faulting and landslide. Flood risk zones would be found in areas subject to periodic flood. Noise and safety could be used around airports. Fire hazard zones may apply to fire prone areas.

Historic Preserve Zones would include land which contains significant heritage resources.

Miscellaneous Zones would include: view protection; agriculture and rural; marine and wildlife reserves; scenic corridors; and low density zoning.

#### Incentive Regulation

This approach is another method by which the local jurisdiction can control land use without title to any of the rights of that land.

Land Conservation Act (Williamson) provides a property tax benefit for agricultural lands where the owner agrees to keep the land in agricultural use for a contracted period of time. It is also usable for other open space uses and scenic corridors.

Density Benefits for Open Space (density transfer or development rights transfer) on some lands could be granted in trade for open space and conservation dedications on others.

Private development allows a private developer to design permanent open space into his projects on a voluntary basis as a means of increasing value.

Assessment practices now usually value land for tax assessment purposes according to its "highest" and "best use." Section 402.1 of the Revenue and Taxation code states that in the assessment of land, the assessor shall consider the effect upon value of any enforceable restrictions to which the use of the land may be subjected. Such restrictions shall include, but are not limited to: (a) zoning; (b) recorded contracts with governmental agencies; (c) permit authority of, and permits issued by, governmental agencies exercising land use powers concurrently with local governments, including the California coastal commissions; (d) environmental constraints applied to the use of land pursuant to provisions of statutes.

There is a rebuttable presumption that restrictions will not be removed or substantially modified in the predictable future and that they will substantially equate the value of the land to the value attributable to the legally permissible use or uses.

Costs and Conflicts of Implementation - The economics of retaining land in open space is a vital issue. When there is a decision for government to keep private land open there arises a series of questions: who makes the decision and how was it made; when is compensation to the private land owner justified and when not; what are the sources of the needed funds; what is the relationship between public and private good; what is government's obligation to protect individual rights which may conflict with public needs?

A concensus on these questions is yet to be reached. Indeed a concensus may never be arrived at because it would depend on individual interpretations of public need and government's role in meeting the need. The Association feels that each local agency has the right and obligation to operate as it sees best under guidelines of higher levels of government, which

have agreed on certain basic duties and methods. In the coming program year, the Association will prepare a socio-economic analysis of the Conservation and Open Space Plan to specifically address the implications of plan implementation on the region's economic functioning and social fabric, and discussing the equity concerns of balancing the costs and benefits of the plan.

The plan, in its policy and implementation sections, and the Areas of Regional Significance and Concern, does these things:

It suggests implementation programs and funding sources available to local government and briefly gives the roles of various agencies at each government level.

SCAG's role is in regional planning and coordination, rather than direct implementation. It does not mandate costs of programs to local government.

Costs of implementation would vary greatly depending upon what actions government would take to preserve which combination of suggested lands for open space. Costs are not calculated because of these variables. This would await more definite program proposals.

Areas of Regional Significance and Concern are proposals of a more specific nature for local agency consideration. Suggested actions and agency roles are those which appear logical due to ownership and agency responsibility. There may be others who would also be involved. Definite implementation steps would require local approval.

### CONSERVATION PLAN MAPS

The following four maps show the general locations of selected principle natural resources of the region. These areas form the primary foci for resource conservation action. Note that many areas have more than one resource needing special attention, and that all parts of the region, including the urban areas, have resources of some type.

Conservation Plan policies are designed to apply throughout the region. The locations of natural resources given on the maps are intended to aid the planner and decision maker in determining appropriate actions for conserving resources in any given location.

These maps are also intended to be used in conjunction with the Open Space Plan maps in the following section when open space preservation is indicated as a means of conserving the land's resource capabilities.

MAP A

(See Map Packet)

SELECTED NATURAL RESOURCE LANDS

MAP B

(See Map Packet)

ENDANGERED SPECIES

and

FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT

MAP C  
(See Map Packet)

VEGETATION

MAP D  
(See Map Packet)

MINERALS/AIR BASINS/SURFACE WATER FEATURES

CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

OPEN SPACE SECTION

## OPEN SPACE SECTION

### ISSUES, PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Major issues, problems and opportunities in conservation were discussed in the beginning of the Conservation Section. Many generally apply to the area of Open Space as well. The following statements of issues, problems, and opportunities provide additional perspective on open space concerns.

#### Issues in Open Space

Deficiencies - Open Space acreage deficiencies are very difficult to determine. There is a wide range of standards in use throughout the region which give widely different estimates of present and future open space shortages. Most of these relate to open space for recreation, with little consideration given to the other open space uses. These other uses by their very nature do not lend themselves to the kind of deficiency analysis used for estimating recreation needs.

Since less than five percent of the region is urbanized and over 95% remains open it would appear that there is a great supply of open space land and no deficiency exists. Yet, almost everyone agrees that the open space shortage is very great. The issue centers more on the location of the open lands. Open Space issues are often population oriented. A great deal of the existing open space is located in the hills and mountains, and huge acreages exist in deserts. It is in the urbanized areas that the perceived deficiencies occur.

The recreational open space deficiencies in the urban areas are most critical in the older, lower income portions of the cities. This works a hardship on the residents because few large recreational areas are nearby, and those residents are the least able to travel great distances to the

outlying sites.

In addition, some of the most desirable remaining open space lands near the cities (scenic features, agricultural lands, heritage resources ecological areas, the coastline, water features) are experiencing intense pressures for development. Few owners can or will voluntarily keep such lands open in the face of these pressures. Once these lands are developed, they are lost to open space uses forever.

Near-town recreation deficiency is only one of the issues in deficiency to be considered. Additional topics of concern include watershed areas for water supply and flood control areas; prime agricultural lands-both existing and potential; and open space lands which will serve to form the limits and shape of the urban area.

Open Space Use of Private Land - Regulation of privately owned land is becoming an increasingly prominent public issue. While the governmental responsibility for land regulation is deeply rooted in our system of law, in recent years "downzoning" and "inverse condemnation" have created much interest and resulted in landmark court cases.

"Taking", the uncompensated regulation of land use by government, is a thoroughly litigated issue in the nation and in California. The courts have supported government's police power to plan for and regulate land uses without having to pay its owners for possible diminution of value. This right is heavily conditional but allows local government freedom of action to plan and implement in a fair manner. Still, taking remains a vital issue which is still being tested.

The Association's land use plans would not constitute a taking because they are policy guides where implementation is voluntary by local agencies. In addition, the plans are generalized and allow a wide latitude for interpretation. Taking is a local government issue because it has the land

use control capability.

Equity, or "windfall and wipeout" remains an unresolved question .

To even out the differential impacts, of government's land use decisions may or may not be an issue of concern. Capturing windfall profits where such actions increase land values as a side effect seems desirable. Compensation for wipeout, reduction of property values by government actions, is at the core of the taking issue which is of great concern today.

Rising Costs - Costs associated with real property have been rising very fast and possibly will continue to do so. These costs include inflated land values and the rapidly rising costs of construction and government services, usually paid by taxes. These costs make the financing of recreation and open space facilities all the more difficult. Compared with many other government functions, recreation and open space acquisition and development have a low priority.

Lack of Government Commitment and Coordination - As in other areas, coordination among the many local, state, federal agencies and various special purpose districts within the region for recreation and open space planning, has been limited. Within each organization there has often been a lack of commitment to the provision of recreation and open space. Open space has not been a mandatory part of land use planning until recent years.

SCAG forecasts that approximately 160,000 acres of now-vacant land in the region will be developed by 1995, thereby increasing the amount of urban land by 15%. This is a result of a forecasted increase in population of 2.3 million and an expected drop in average household size. The amount of land urbanized would have been even greater, however, were it not for an expected increase in densities. For additional information see the

report SCAG - '76 Growth Forecast Policy. January 1976, and the chart below.

	URBAN ACRES					VACANT ACRES	
	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	1970	1995
Imperial CO.	14,100	15,900	17,200	17,900	18,600	2,725,100	2,721,300
Los Angeles CO.	660,300	683,100	698,100	702,900	707,700	1,869,700	1,827,100
Orange CO.	137,200	188,800	213,300	219,600	225,800	363,300	280,900
Riverside CO.	64,300	85,500	98,900	105,300	111,700	4,612,800	4,571,800
San Bern. CO.	105,900	124,100	134,500	138,300	142,000	12,796,500	12,764,100
Ventura CO.	47,000	57,600	65,300	69,200	73,000	1,158,800	1,136,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,028,800</b>	<b>1,155,00</b>	<b>1,227,300</b>	<b>1,253,200</b>	<b>1,278,800</b>	<b>23,526,200</b>	<b>23,301,800</b>

### Problems in Open Space

Conversion of Uses - Large amounts of open space land are converted yearly from non-urban to urban uses. In addition to residential, commercial, industrial and other urban uses, the infrastructure (roads, freeways, power plants, utility rights-of-way) continue to consume additional land.

Human Needs - An open space network within the metropolitan environment provides urban relief for city dwellers. These natural areas can serve the needs of urbanites seeking tranquil areas, as well as those residents who desire areas of active participation. In addition, the preservation of natural habitats within the urban environment can provide a laboratory experience in botany for the city child. The provision of open space within urbanized areas is especially important for low income residents, whose accessibility is primarily limited to the metropolitan area. Additionally, greenbelts aid in distinguishing one city from another and serve as a

buffer between urban and rural areas. In this way preservation of open space can aid in establishing community identity.

Another land use conversion is from land in a natural state to agricultural use. This is a conversion from one kind of open space use to another, but it can have some serious impacts and consequences. Conversion from a broad based natural ecology to a monoculture increases the probability for large scale invasion by pests, reduces the habitat for the endemic plant and animal species, and increases the load on water supply and agricultural drainage systems.

The steady outward movement of the urban frontier places the greatest development pressure on the most desirable adjacent parcels of open space land. These are often the most important lands for a variety of open space uses. While there are a number of existing regulations which guide land subdivision, many practices are still difficult to control. The use of available regulatory tools varies greatly from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Assessment practices can tend to encourage the urbanization of lands adjacent to urban areas by raising tax bills, making them uneconomic for open space or agricultural use.

Lack of Defined Standards - Standards for open space land uses are very difficult to define. Most standards are somewhat arbitrary and usually pertain to open space for outdoor recreation. These vary widely throughout the nation.

Standards for open space for managed production of resources, public health and safety, preservation of resources and urban shaping cannot be given as a ratio of acres per person or a percent of a total. They are highly relative to the existing natural conditions, are conditioned by national or worldwide needs, and therefore, are usually given as performance standards (i.e. restrictions on building on flood plains) rather than as population based criteria.

Deficiency in Urban Areas - This is related to the entire subject of standards, but must be stressed again. While the great majority of the region is open space, very little of this open space is located within the metropolitan areas. Generally, the older the area, the less open space is available. This creates an almost intolerable situation.

Many of these older areas are now the homes of lower income people - those who need nearby open space the most. Nearby recreational open space is often unavailable and it is usually difficult for low income people to travel to the outskirts of the region. Finally, there are the very high costs of converting existing high density land to open space uses and the apparent reluctance of local agencies to commit the necessary resources to these areas.

Limited Funds - The provision of open space for public use can be expensive and governmental funds for this use are limited. No level of government has sufficient money to meet the needs, and local government is the hardest pressed. There is a lack of "ear marked" or continuous funding sources. Special attention needs to be paid to programs which preserve the maximum acreage of desirable lands for the funds expended.

Destruction by Inappropriate Use - Another open space problem concerns the overuse or misuse of outdoor recreation and other open space by users. Many of the most desirable open space lands are subject to heavy overuse by the public or outright destruction by unthinking persons or vandals. This erodes the very open space values which most persons are seeking. Overly strict regulation erodes these same values in another way. Solutions must be found which allow use while preserving the essential character and function of open space.

Inappropriate Park Use - Occasionally inappropriate public non-park uses of park lands have been made. This has resulted in considerable loss of acreage and in some negative effects on the remaining park lands on the site.

## Opportunities in Open Space

Open Space Awareness - The general public has gained a new awareness of and need for open space. There is an increased desire for outdoor recreation and a heightened appreciation for the aesthetics and functions of open lands. People are also becoming more aware of the dangers of building on unsafe lands and are looking with greater skepticism on the desirability of further urban physical expansion. This new awareness may aid greatly in the preservation of open space.

New Laws and Court Decisions - State law requires that each city and county in the state prepare and maintain an Open Space Plan among other required plan elements. Zoning must conform to the general plan, and the plan cannot be amended too frequently. An expected result is that there will be greater planning for and implementation of open space provisions.

In addition, a number of recent court decisions have upheld open space and environmental impact reporting regulations. These have greatly increased the local agency's effectiveness in planning and preserving open space lands. While land use decision-making by lawsuit is an inefficient process, these landmark decisions in many cases provide a stronger base for open space implementation programs.

Reduced Population Growth - There has been a significant reduction in population growth rates throughout the region, and this trend could continue. This may reduce urbanization pressure on open space lands if household sizes remain constant. (If household sizes drop, pressures could remain at their current level).

Increased Governmental Commitment and Cooperation - Local agencies appear ready to strongly promote the preservation and maintenance of open

space. And, through organizations such as SCAG, they are cooperating more closely in regionwide open space planning and implementation. There are new tools becoming available for open space designation and preservation. These include possible modification of assessment practices, greater use of regulatory powers, and use of the methods of less than full fee acquisition.

Given the preceding discussion on open space issues, problems and opportunities, and the overall goals stated in the Introduction the following statements of objectives further delineate regional actions.

## OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVES

1. Create and preserve an open space system which meets the needs of all people in the region, is fully integrated with the region's natural resources, and maximizes options on future development patterns.
2. Preserve open space for protection of public health and safety.
3. Preserve open space for the conservation of natural resources.
4. Provide and preserve open space for outdoor recreation and education adequate for, and accessible to the region's population through a coordinated system of recreational, scenic, scientific, cultural, historical, architectural, archeological, and nature-oriented open spaces and linkages.
5. Preserve open space for the managed production of resources.
6. Preserve and create an open space system that will give community scale, focus, and identity, avoid urban sprawl, give relief from the forces and effects of urbanization, and afford a sense of natural openness as an integral part of urban surroundings, recognizing the economic enhancements as well as social, esthetic, and public health benefits of open spaces within and around urban communities.
7. Preserve open space needed for utilities, communications, and transportation facilities, sites and corridors.
8. Preserve open space in urbanized areas as a means of fulfilling human needs, especially in low income and open space deficient areas.  
Restore urban area natural habitats where feasible.
9. Preserve open space to protect scenic resources.

The following open space policies build upon the goals and objectives. They further detail SCAG's actions to preserve and enhance open space for its own uses and as a means of natural resource conservation.

## OPEN SPACE POLICIES

### General Policies

SCAG shall -

1. Encourage open space preservation as one means of controlling sprawl, and guiding urbanization into planned areas.
2. Encourage open space planning and implementation for the preservation of natural resources; and for the managed production of resources.
3. Encourage the preservation of the physical characteristics of the region including riverbeds, canyons, mountains and hilly areas, deserts and ocean shoreline.
4. Encourage vigorous implementation of local and regional open space plans.
5. Support conservation of open space needed for air quality protection, water supply and water quality protection, sewage and solid waste disposal, and auditory quality protection.
6. Support conservation of open space for protection from:
  - (a) Flood hazard: natural drainage channels and flood plain protection and management alternatives shall be generally preferable to structural protection alternatives;
  - (b) Geologic hazards: including earthquake, unstable soils, subsidence, etc.; compatible open space use and restriction against urban development are generally preferable to structural and/or massive grading alternatives;
  - (c) Fire hazard: ecologically sensitive methods, compatible open space use and restriction against urban development are generally preferable to urbanized or massive clearance alternatives.
7. Foster compatible multi-use opportunities inherent in the various types of open space, while maintaining the integrity of the area's primary open space purpose.

8. Encourage identification and preservation of heritage resources sites.
9. Support park and recreation facilities throughout the region, with an emphasis upon the areas of greatest need and deficiency.
10. Support development of open space linkages -- trails, parkways, scenic highways, utility easements, channels, railroad rights-of-way, and other linear opportunities for hiking, biking, and equestrian trails. Such linear open spaces are of special value in and near urban areas.
11. Support integration of recreation with transportation and land use planning to increase general accessibility, relieve dependence on the private automobile, and relieve undue pressure on recreation area resources.
12. Encourage development of recreation opportunities in National Forests, National Parks and BLM lands compatible with resource capability, while fostering preservation and protection of such lands and their multiple uses.
13. Encourage the protection of open spaces of sufficient size to be possible for visitors to achieve a sense of isolation and wilderness.
14. Support preservation of open space areas for the forecasted expansion of utility, communications and transportation facilities including appropriate open space buffers.  
Corridors for such facilities should be established whenever necessary.
15. Discourage plans for and extensions of facilities such as highways, freeways, powerlines and trunkline water and sewer facilities into extensive open space areas that are planned to remain open.
16. Encourage local, state and federal agencies to seek out, evaluate and take advantage of special opportunities to obtain open space as these opportunities become available and where they are in conformance with established open space plans.
17. Encourage compatible multiple use of areas for regional open space buffers.

This could include recreation, water storage recharge areas, flood control areas, nature preserves and other similar uses.

18. Encourage all agencies to aggressively pursue all sources of funding and other for open space preservation.
19. Encourage the designation of sanitary landfill sites with both short and long term land use designations. Short term designations should include use of the site for solid waste disposal and possible energy and resource recovery. Long term designation of the site could be for development as an open space and recreation facility. Such designations could allow for planning and implementation of appropriate land uses surrounding the site.
20. Encourage the reclamation of vacant or unused urbanized lands, and portions of land in urban redevelopment projects, when possible to add to and enhance open space acreage and productivity.
21. Encourage preservation of scenic open space resources.
22. Encourage efforts to achieve assessment practices which will preserve open space and agricultural uses.
23. Assist in the development of mechanisms to preserve open space and agricultural uses.

SCAG shall -

1. Actively promote the preservation of land habitat for all species of wildlife with special focus on water oriented habitat, border zones between different habitats, special and unique areas and other areas especially diverse in species.
2. Encourage the preservation of areas located along the Pacific Flyway for use by migrating birds.
3. Continue to promote the preservation of the region's marine resources, placing emphasis on the shore and near shore zones, and especially on bays, estuaries and lagoons. Cooperate fully with the Coastal Commission and successor agencies.
4. Encourage efforts to protect areas supporting threatened and endangered plant species.
5. Strongly encourage habitat preservation and protection for threatened and endangered birds, animals, and fishes.
  
6. Encourage the maintenance of natural areas for ecologic and scientific study.
7. Encourage non-structural flood control practices, i.e. vegetative and other measures to prevent soil erosion and loss.
8. Strongly encourage planning and preservation efforts which will guide growth, retaining and establishing vegetation to help improve the region's air quality.
9. Continue to promote the preservation of important watersheds for natural resource values and public safety.
10. Work to preserve and enhance the region's scenic and esthetic values.

## Managed Production of Resources

SCAG shall -

1. Promote the production and use of the region's resources while maintaining and improving the region's environmental quality.
2. Encourage increased conservation of all resources and recycling where economically and environmentally beneficial.
3. Support conservation of agricultural lands for economic and humanitarian values and open space relief from urbanization. Utilization of available tools such as zoning, Land Conservation Act preserves, and other methods which recognize both agricultural land economics, human need for food and general open space benefits shall be supported.
4. Encourage the conservation and judicious extraction of the region's mineral resources. Those of statewide or nationwide importance shall receive special attention and action.
  - a. Non-petroleum mineral resources (including sand and gravel) should be mined in the least disruptive manner and the site reclaimed by the operator when the operations are ended.
  - b. Hydrocarbon resources should be extracted in accordance with a national or state energy policy. Emphasis should be placed on onshore wells since they are less environmentally disruptive than offshore wells. If offshore resources are developed, it should be done under strict environmental controls.
5. Encourage the maintenance and improvement of the region's fisheries. Programs should include continued salt water commercial and sport fishing regulation, habitat improvement and research into fish propagation. Special emphasis should also be given to the improving region's sport steelhead and trout fisheries.

6. Plan for and encourage the inclusion of ground water recharge sites as part of drainage and flood control management programs, and in water treatment projects, and in all open space lands when appropriate.
7. Plan for the grazing use of rangeland of regional significance in accordance with sound range management practices.
8. Promote the use of lands having regionally significant forest production with the provision that standards for cutting are observed, regenerative capacity of the resource is maintained and impacts on surrounding areas are minimized.

### Outdoor Recreation

SCAG shall -

1. Encourage the provision of sufficient land and facilities for all forms of outdoor recreation where needed and appropriate.
2. Continue to place emphasis on the provision of recreational opportunities in impacted areas and in areas of greatest deficiency.
3. Urge a mixture of natural form areas and developed recreational sites, for urban, suburban, and rural and primitive areas.
4. Work with all concerned agencies and the public to meet recreation land standards as defined in this report. Note: See also SCAG's Outdoor Recreation Plan and Capital Improvement Program for discussion of deficiency standards.
5. Continue to aid local agencies in securing financial assistance for recreation and open space purposes through the SCAG Capital Improvement Program for outdoor recreation and the A-95 grant review process.
6. Encourage the multiple use of recreation and open space lands to

accommodate several recreation and open space demands on single sites, and encourage innovations in planning and delivery systems.

7. Include areas of scenic, historic, and scientific, archeologic, paleontologic and cultural values as part of the spectrum of recreation and open space consideration.

### Public Health and Safety

SCAG shall -

1. Support the conservation of open space for protection from:

a) Geologic hazards

-by encouraging continuing investigations into seismic problems and developing necessary prediction and protection techniques in earthquake hazards zones.

-by working for the preservation of open space in seismically hazardous areas and restrictions on development.

-by working for the protection of vulnerable areas from potential tsunami and seiche.

b) Fire hazards

-by urging the restriction of urbanization in fire prone areas

-by encouraging to employ ecologically sound fuel management, such as controlled burning, in managing native flammable fuels, to reduce fire hazards in preference to large scale clearing or herbicide spraying.

c) Flood hazards

-by promoting adequate flood plain management as an alternative to structural methods.

-by encouraging the provision of flood control structures where management alternatives clearly will not be sufficient to protect existing (but not to facilitate future) development.

-by supporting enforcement of management policies that will protect the watersheds above the flood plains.

-by encouraging the optimum location of necessary flood control structures to protect the habitats.

d) Mass earth movements (slump, rockslides, debris slides)

-by discouraging development on slopes in excess of 25%

-by discouraging excessive cutting and filling of slopes

-by encouraging maintenance of covered slopes and revegetation of barren slopes to prevent mass movement.

e) Unstable soils

-by encouraging regulation of areas having unsuitable soils for building (subsidence, liquification, shrink-swell, etc.)

2. Take all available and necessary action to conserve open space for the maintenance and improvement of the region's water quality.

-by encouraging the replacement of septic tanks with sanitary sewers. However, this would not encourage the extension of sewer lines in a manner which would be growth inducing in an area not planned for urbanization.

-by study of various means of preventing pollution from storm drainage.

Any efforts should be coordinated with flood control and water supply

3. Review the impacts of regionally significant development adjacent to open space areas to encourage open space values. Encourage steps to reduce the impact of urban development on adjacent open areas.

4. Encourage open space within urban areas to provide contrast and relief from the forces and effects of the urban environment.

## Public Well-Being

SCAG shall -

1. Support park and recreation facilities in areas of greatest need and deficiency, with particular attention to the needs of the economically disadvantaged and those of limited mobility, recognizing that recreational open space resources located outside metropolitan areas supplement but do not substitute for open space and recreation opportunities within population centers.
2. Encourage provision of recreational open space in urban renewal programs and support programs to create open space by restoring selected sites within renewal areas to a natural or landscaped state.
3. Place special priority on the creation, preservation and development of recreation and open space in urbanized areas as a means of making up the serious deficiencies which have long existed in low income and densely populated areas.
4. Encourage preservation of open space to retain scenic resources and enhance urban living.

Responsibilities

The various agency responsibilities and available techniques discussed in the Implementation Chapter of the Conservation Section are essentially the same as those for the Open Space Section. Those responsibilities and techniques directed toward the conservation of land in non-urban uses are generally applicable for open space lands preservation and use. Those discussions are not repeated in this section. Reference is made to the Conservation Section for responsibilities and techniques used in implementing the open space plan.

Standards and Criteria

As mentioned previously in this report, it is very difficult to set standards for open space other than for use as outdoor recreation.

A survey of existing open space standards was utilized to prepare a standard for open space and outdoor recreation use. The table shown on the following page, represents some of the current thinking on these standards in the region and nation.

SCAG recommends a standard of 15 acres per 1,000 persons for regional park facilities. This is in keeping with other Areawide Planning Organization work in the state, and with standards used by some agencies in the region.

It must be noted that this standard is different from the priority setting tool used in the SCAG Outdoor Recreation and Capital Improvement Program. The CIP used a single criterion to calculate a relative deficiency based on a single figure which was applied to all jurisdictions without regard for locally adopted standards. This was done to enable deficiency calculations and priority setting by using a common denominator for the entire region.

In evaluating park proposals, the Association's CIP made use of certain social indicators. This qualitative approach may be adopted for park standards at a later time.

CURRENT OPEN SPACE STANDARDS 1.

	Parks & Beaches <u>Open Space</u>		Other Open Space (Acres per 1,000 Population)
	Local	Regional	
Association of Bay Area Governments	15	15	*
P.H. Lewis: Recreation & Park Association	20	40	70
National Recreation & Park Association	10	20	60
Capital Regional Planning Agency, Hartford, Conn.	15	50	*
Twin Cities Metropolitan Planning Commission	10	10	75
Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Commission	7	18	*
Baltimore, Maryland Regional Planning Commission	14	15	*
Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Plan	25	80	49
Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources	10	20	*
New Jersey Division of State and Regional Planning	8	12	40
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission	10	65	24
San Bernardino County	*	10	85
Ventura County	*	5	*
Riverside County	10	15	*
Los Angeles County	4	6	-
San Diego County	15	15	*
SCAG Interim Open Space Plan	*	6	*
Orange County	4	6	0
Comprehensive Planning Organization of San Diego County	*	15	*

\* Standard for these categories were not available or were not expressed in a population ratio, such as acres/1,000 population.

1. Source: County of Orange

This tool was also useful in considering categories of recreation facilities other than urban regional parks. This tool will continue to be used to calculate relative recreation land deficiencies in the CIP. The acreage figures in the CIP are to be used not as absolutes, but only as indicators of relative magnitude of need for various kinds of proposed facilities.

To calculate the need for regional parks in the region in 1990, the standard of 15 acres per 1,000 persons was applied to the current adopted regional population projections. This was done using the same combinations of Regional Statistical Areas (RSA) used in the Capital Improvement Program for their homogeneity of need and service areas. The 1990 regional recreation needs are given in the table on the following page and accompanying map. This table gives needs for projected residents only. Many areas will experience an even greater demand as recreation attractors for people from other places.

Criteria for establishing the other open space uses (e.g. those other than recreation) can be set without using a numerical standard. These criteria are:

- a. Where open space is found necessary to protect public health and safety or to fulfill human needs as defined elsewhere in this report.
- b. Where open space is advisable for Managed Production of Resources, Preservation of Natural Resources, Urban Shaping, or Outdoor Recreation uses other than regional parks.
- c. Where available and desirable to maintain open space for other open space values.
- d. To fulfill the goals and policies given in the Conservation Section of this report and in other Association plans and reports.
- e. To fulfill projected open space needs of all types.

1995 Regional Park Needs

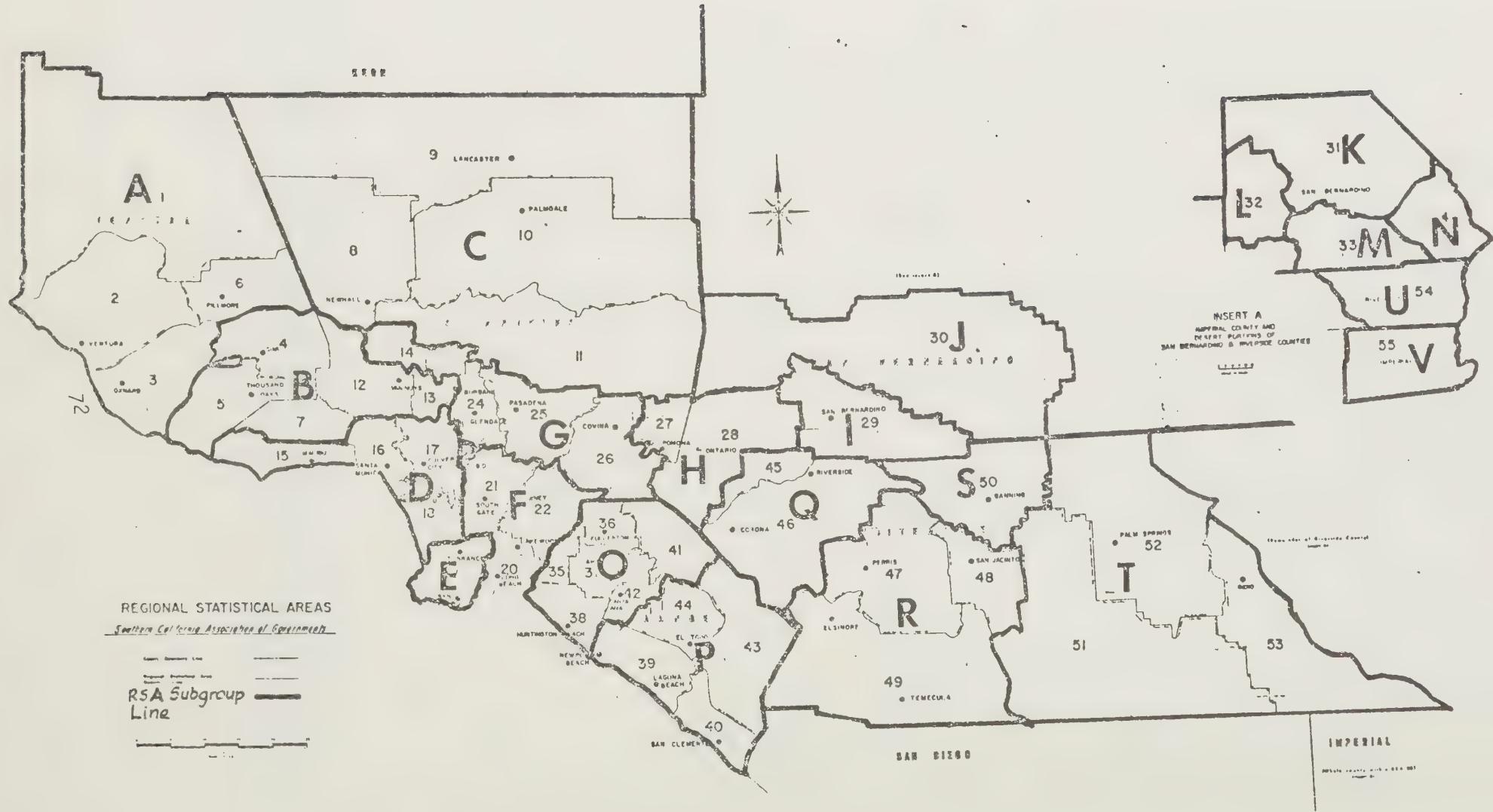
(Standard: 15 acres per 1,000 persons using  
SCAG adopted population forecast)

<u>RSA Subgroups (RSAs included)</u>	<u>1995 Population</u>	<u>1995 Regional Park Need</u>	<u>1975 Regional Park Supply</u>	<u>Needed Additions 1975-1995</u>
A (1, 2, 3, 6 )	578,500	8,678	6,351	2,327
B (4, 5, 7, 12, 13, 14)	1,959,000	29,385	25,836	3,549
C (8, 9, 10, 11)	284,500	4,268	6,832	0
D (15, 16, 17, 18)	1,890,000	28,350	1,244	27,106
E (19)	469,000	7,035	844	6,191
F (20, 21, 22, 23)	2,045,000	30,675	1,863	28,812
G (24, 25, 26)	1,614,500	24,218	10,040	14,178
H (27, 28)	1,523,500	7,853	2,902	4,951
I (29)	375,000	5,625	1,306	4,319
J (30)	31,500	473	21	452
K (31)	7,800	117	0	117
L (32)	100,000	1,500	0	1,500
M (33)	35,500	533	0	533
N (34)	7,200	108	0	108
O (35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42)	1,774,000	26,610	1,541	25,069
P (39, 40, 43, 44)	739,000	11,085	6,579	4,506
Q (45, 46)	433,500	6,503	8,800	0
R (47, 48, 49)	131,600	1,974	0	1,974
S (50)	35,900	539	564	0
T (51, 52, 53)	176,200	2,643	0	2,643
U (54)	19,800	297	0	297
V (55)	109,000	1,635	1,163	472

Regional Total

Please see SCAG Recreation CIP for a full discussion of present and projected regional park needs and deficiencies.

"Regional Park" is generally a park provided by a county designed to serve a large local population. Federal and state facilities are not included in this definition since they are of statewide or national interest. Water surfaces of major lakes and wildlife preserves are also not included since they do not generally provide recreational operations for the majority of residents.



MAP E

(See Map Packet)

Natural Features/Regional Statistical Areas

MAP F

(See Map Packet)

Regional Perspective Maps -- East View

MAP G  
(See Map Packet)

Regional Perspective Map -- North View

MAP H  
(See Map Packet)

Metro Map      Open Space Inventory by type

MAP I  
(See Map Packet)

Open Space Plan

## Conservation and Open Space

### AREAS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE AND CONCERN

## AREAS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE AND CONCERN

### INTRODUCTION

This section details areas of regional significance and concern as locations to which special attention and action should be addressed. Strong reference is made to the Environmental Goals and Policy Report and the Development Guidelines for Areas of Statewide Critical Concern published by the California State Office of Planning and Research. These documents provide the basic definitions, guidelines and lists of areas of statewide interest which have been included in this report. National and statewide areas have been listed since they are, by definition, also of regional interest. Areas of clear regional interest have been added to enlarge the scope of regional action. The identification of areas which are primarily of local concern is a responsibility of local agencies.

The statewide selection criteria have been applied generally to the region to develop the lists of areas of regional significance and concern. These areas include:

1. Areas of outstanding scientific, scenic and recreational value.
2. Areas which are required as habitat for significant fish and wildlife resources, including rare and endangered species.
3. Forest and agricultural lands which are judged to be of major importance in meeting future needs for food, fiber and timber.
4. Areas which provide green space and open areas in and around high-density metropolitan development.
5. Areas which require special development regulation because of hazardous or special conditions, such as earthquake fault zones, wildfire prone areas unstable slide areas, flood plains, and watersheds.
7. Areas which serve as connecting links between major public recreation

and open-space sites, such as utility easements, streambanks, trails, and scenic highway corridors.

#### 8. Areas of major historic or cultural interest.

This is a rough "first cut" analysis which will be refined in subsequent revisions of this plan. The California Desert is the subject of special planning under the 1976 BLM Organic Act. Mapped significant areas in the desert reflect current thinking, but may be changed as planning progresses.

The intent of this section is to provide additional information of use in the conservation of natural resources and open space lands preservation and reclamation, and to link these regional areas more closely to statewide planning efforts. This section is designed to be used for background information and possible use in decision making by local, state regional and federal agencies.

The areas are given on the following pages, divided into four planning areas, and listed by county within each area.

## ABBREVIATIONS LIST

1.	ANF	Angeles National Forest
2.	BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
3.	BLM	Bureau of Land Management
4.	CNF	Cleveland National Forest
5.	DOC	Department of Conservation (State)
6.	DFG	Department of Fish & Game (State)
7.	DOD	Department of Defense
8.	DOI	Department of the Interior
9.	DPR	Department of Parks & Recreation (State)
10.	DWR	Department of Water Resources (State)
11.	FCD	Flood Control District
12.	IC	Imperial County
13.	IID	Imperial Irrigation District
14.	LAC	Los Angeles County
15.	LPNF	Los Padres National Forest
16.	MWD	Metropolitan Water District
17.	OC	Orange County
18.	RC	Riverside County
19.	SBC	San Bernardino County
20.	SBNF	San Bernardino National Forest
21.	SCCRC	South Central Coast Regional Commission
22.	SCS	Soil Conservation Service (State)
23.	SCRC	South Coast Regional Commission
24.	SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
25.	USFS	United States Forest Service
26.	Ven Co	Ventura County

Map - Areas of Regional Significance  
and Concern

Metropolitan Area Map -- Map J

Regional Area Map -- Map K

(See Map Packet)

COASTAL PLANNING AREA  
Los Angeles County Portion

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Airport Dunes	Large Beach dunes. Disturbed but the last example in Los Angeles County. Coastal strand ecology. Forms clear zone at LAX.	Preserve and restore to natural condition	LA City LA Dept. of Airports
Alamitos Bay  Mouth of San Gabriel at North bank	Former estuary heavily developed with marinas and recreation facilities. Some parts restorable wetland.  Flows into Alamitos Bay. Open space area nesting site of Least tern (E) 1971-73. Virtually the only place.	Restore and protect  Protect site	City of Long Beach City of Seal Beach LAC Orange County SCRC
Ballona Creek Estuary and lagoon	A highly modified but restorable wetland. Some recreational use. Wildlife habitat.	Preserve and restore to natural condition	LAC SCRC City of Culver City
Bixby Slough	Fresh water marsh and lake at Harbor Regional Park. Heavy recreational use. Rich bird life.	Maintain	LA City
Channel Islands Santa Catalina Island	Large mostly privately owned island only Avalon is developed. Under open space easement with recreation plans being developed. Very valuable for recreation (land and ocean) fish, wildlife habitat including island fox (E). Existing marine reserve at Lover's Cove. Marine Preserve proposed at Isthmus Cove.	Preserve and protect. Develop recreation facility.  Designate, preserve	LAC City of Avalon  DFG
San Clemente Island	Large island used for military exercises. No permanent population. Excellent environmental values. Seals, island fox, birdlife, fish.	Acquire as open space if military ever declares surplus	US Navy LAC
Farnsworth Bank Marine Reserve  Ship Rock Marine Preserve (proposed)	Very rich marine life sanctuary west of Catalina.  Special marine life area off Isthmus Cove, Catalina	Maintain  Designate	DFG  DFG

COASTAL PLANNING AREA  
Los Angeles County Portion Page 2

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Cabrillo-Fort MacArthur area	<p>Area extends from White's Point to Fort MacArthur Lower Reservation.</p> <p>Fort MacArthur has been declared surplus by the Army. Three sites -- White's Point, Upper Reservation, and some Lower Reservation are prime recreational land.</p> <p>Point Fermin is a marine life refuge with heavily used tidepools. Designated historical sites at Pt. Cabrillo lighthouse and at Ft. MacArthur. Beach recreation at Cabrillo Beach. Proposed marina.</p>	<p>Acquisition of White's Point, Upper Reservation and part of Lower Reservation for recreation</p> <p>Maintain</p> <p>Maintain</p> <p>Maintain in present use</p>	<p>LAC</p> <p>DFG</p> <p>LAC, DPR LA City LAC, SCRC</p>
Escondido Canyon	Priority for sand supply to coast.	Preserve	LAC SCRC
Malibu Coast area (Ventura County line to Pacific Palisades)	South facing strip characterized by small sandy beaches and rocky headlands. Ecology in generally good condition.	Preserve and protect. See Specific recommendations below. Establish marine reserve, - County line to Malibu Point	See below DFG SCRC
Malibu Canyon and Lagoon	Estuary. Relatively unspoiled condition. Heavy recreation use. See also Southwest Hills Listing.	Preserve and protect. Expand existing state park.	LAC DPR
Leo Carrillo State Park (proposed) (and State Beach)	Sandy beach and volcanic plug. At county line. In good condition	Acquire beach and uplands	DPR
Point Dume bluffs and beaches	Recreational use, ecological area.	Acquire and protect	LAC, DPR
Paradise Cove	Private beach and marina	Acquire and operate	DPR
Zuma Canyon and beach	Large state beach. Canyon priority sand supply source, riparian habitat. Very important ecological area.	Acquire uplands and preserve	DPR, LAC
Other significant areas are:  Tuna Canyon, Rustic and Sullivan Canyons, Santa Ynez, Temescal Canyon and their watersheds.		Protect	LAC Los Angeles City

**COASTAL PLANNING AREA**  
**Los Angeles County Portion Page 3**

Area	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Palos Verdes Peninsula and coastal area (see also Southwest Hill listing)	Rocky shore with pocket beaches and terraced marine bluffs. Rich tidepools, geologic and paleontologic values with uplifted terraces, kelpbeds, healthy canyon ecology, sand supply. Marine life degraded around White's Point. Extremely important coastal area.	Acquire or strictly regulate private coastal lands. Create marine preserve. Re-establish Kelpbeds.	LAC, SCRC, Rancho Palos Verdes Palos Verdes Estates, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates
Abalone Cove Uplands	Lands above Abalone Cove on Palos Verdes Peninsula Geologic values	Acquire and/or regulate to preserve from urbanization	Rancho Palos Verdes SCRC
Aqua Amarga Canyon	Small area on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, valuable coastal sage scrub (a disappearing habitat) and chaparral in an area of urbanization pressures	Preserve and restore to natural conditions	LAC Rancho Palos Verdes
Bent Spring Canyon	Riparian habitat, coastal sage, bird life. On Palos Verdes Peninsula.	Preserve	SCRC Rancho Palos Verdes
Portuguese Bend landslide area	Recent large landslide, geologically unstable. Most important ecological area and unsuited for permanent development.	Establish open space area	Rancho Palos Verdes LAC SCRC
Los Angeles - Long Beach Harbors	Industrial and related uses. The major harbor on the West Coast.  Small public beach at Cabrillo, fishing pier, marine museum proposal for very large expansion of docks and cargo handling area including extensive dredging and filling. Anchovy and sardine fishing improving due to improved water quality after long decline. Proposed marina near Cabrillo Beach Site on south side of Terminal Island includes small sandy beach and ponds. Least terns (E) recently attempted nesting. Other water fowl use it. Wetland is restorable.	Preserve remaining ecologically important lands. Continue to improve water quality. Restore wetland	Port of Los Angeles Port of Long Beach SCRC Corps of Engineers Cities of Los Angeles & Long Beach
Existing public recreation lands located on the Los Angeles County coast.	<p>Leo Carrillo SB          Nicholas Beach and Canyon          Zuma Beach          Point Dume SB          Corral SB          Malibu-Surfrider SB, Malibu Lagoon SB          Topanga SB          Will Rogers SB          Santa Monica SB          Venice Beach          Marina del Rey Harbor &amp; Beach          Dockweiler SB          Manhattan-El Segundo SB          Hermosa City Beach          King Harbor          Redondo SB          El Sol (in acquisition)          El Pescador (in acquisition)</p> <p>Torrance Beach          Point Vicente Fishing Access          Royal Palms SB          Cabrillo Beach          Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbors          Long Beach City Beach          Avalon City Beach          Clifton Beach          Palos Verdes Shoreline Park          Las Tunas SB          Puerto (in acquisition)          Escondido (in acquisition)          Point Vicente (military will declare surplus)          White's Point Beach          Abalone Cove</p>	See SCAG Outdoor Recreation CIP	All jurisdictions
Private beaches include: (most have little or no public use)	Encinal, Paradise Cove, El Segundo, Trancas, Amarillo, Malibu, Carbon, La Costa, Big Rock, Las Flores.	There is public access to area below main high tide line	

Private beaches include:  
(most have little or no public use)

COASTAL PLANNING AREA  
Orange County Portion

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Anaheim - Sunset Bay	<p>700 acre estuary. Area in Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge (part of Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station) in very good ecological condition. Inhabitants include:</p> <p>Southern Bald eagle (E)      American Peregrin falcon (E)      Light footed clapper rail (E)      California clapper rail (E)      California Black rail (R)      California Least tern (E) - one of the last two places where this species nests.</p> <p>Other marine life in estuarine habitat which is so important for this marine ecology. Extensive educational use.</p>	<p>Within the wildlife refugee. Restore wetlands where possible. Limit development to access only.</p> <p>Create Anaheim Bay State Park</p> <p>Acquire estuaries if military ever declares surplus</p>	Orange County (OC) US Navy DPR City of Seal Beach SCRC DOI DFG
Bolsa Bay and Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve	<p>600 acre estuary isolated from the ocean. Restorable wetland which sustains a large water fowl population similar to above.</p> <p>Proposed by DFG for marsh restoration and marina.</p>	<p>Restore wetlands study marina proposal carefully to ensure it won't interfere with ecological functioning</p>	OC DFG DPR SCRC
Golden West Ponds	<p>Badly disturbed but restorable fresh water ponds and marsh.</p>	<p>Restore and protect</p>	OC Huntington Beach
Santa Ana River Mouth	<p>Highly modified estuary area. Possible small craft harbors. Hiking and equestrian trails and recreation facilities.</p>		OC SCRC Santa Ana River Greenbelt Comm.
Upper Newport Bay	<p>600-1,000 acre estuary and bluffs. Over 150 species of birds (see Anaheim Bay listing) and highly productive fish nursery for replenishment of ocean life. Subject of intense effort to preserve area, which is now being saved from development. Major problem with upstream drainage into bay. This is the major remaining estuary in Southern California.</p>		OC DFG DPR SCRC
Laguna Greenbelt	<p>5000 Acre Coastal Wilderness</p>	<p>Preserve and Protect</p>	OC City of Laguna Beach DOC City of Irvine

COASTAL PLANNING AREA  
Orange County Portion Page 2

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Action	Primary Responsibility
<b>Marine Life Refuges:</b> Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve Newport Beach Marine Life Refuge Irvine Coast Marine Life Refuge Heisler Park Ecological Reserve Laguna Beach Marine Life Refuge South Laguna Beach Marine Life Refuge Niguel Marine Life Refuge Dana Point Marine Life Refuge Doheny Beach Marine Life Refuge	Significant Marine life resources.	Continue protection Include Seal Rock and area in reserve	DFG OC
<b>Recreation Beaches</b>	Orange County is fortunate to have much of its significant coastline in public ownership. Public beach areas are:  City of Seal Beach Surfside (Private) Sunset Beach Bolsa Chica SB  City of Huntington Beach Huntington SB Santa Ana River Beach City of Newport Beach Dunes Aquatic Park Concessionaire Newport Bay Beach Corona del Mar SB  City of Laguna Beach South Laguna Beach  Poche Beach Aliso Beach Niguel Beach Dana Point Harbor Beach (Dana Pt. Marina)  Doheny SB  City of San Clemente San Clemente SB	For all- preserve, protect, expand where appropriate	OC DPR Various Coastal cities

**COASTAL PLANNING AREA**  
**Ventura County Portion**

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Coastal Strand	<p>The entire length of the coastal strand from Ventura through Orange County is an area of regional significance and concern. The ocean, submarine features and Channel Islands are also of regional interest.</p> <p>The listings that follow indicate some of the primary areas of interest. There are many others. Public beaches are grouped at the end of each county portion because they are already being managed.</p>	<p>Preserve and protect wherever possible. Ensure public recreational access Restrict over building Protect wildlife and marine resources</p> <p>In addition to beach listings below, DPR should acquire Ormand, Punta Gorda-La Condrita and Seaciff-Pitas Point beach areas</p>	Varied - Involves myriad agencies at all levels of government  DPR SCCRC
Allesandro Lagoon	Salt water marsh and tidal mud flats. Salt grass, pickleweed, birdlife.	Preserve and protect	City of San Buenaventura DFG SCCRC
Deer Creek Canyon Shoreline	Coastal sage, riparian vegetation and scenic vistas. California sagebrush, White sage, Buckwheat, lemonadeberry, prickly pear, ground squirrel, western rattlesnake. Area of undeveloped sand beaches.	Acquisition and development plans to fit to Pt. Mugu State Park	DPR Ventura County SCCRC
Leo Carrillo State Beach expansion into Ventura County	Old marine terrace and volcanic plug. Oak woodland, coastal sage and chaparral.	Acquire and develop	DPR Ventura County and LAC SCCRC
Mc Grath Lake State Park (proposed)	Sand dunes and fresh water lagoon. Ice plant, lupine, tule and cat tails. Freshwater marshes are unusual.	Acquire and develop	DPR City of Oxnard SCCRC
Mugu Lagoon/Estuary State park acquisition	Coastal salt marsh and lagoon - the best example of an unspoiled estuary in the region. Currently part of US Navy Pt. Mugu Pacific Missile Range. Salt grass, pickleweed, clapper rail (E)	Acquire as part of Pt. Mugu State Park - continue to restrict public use but allow interpretative center	DPR Ventura County US Navy SCCRC
Oxnard Shores South (Mandalay Beach)	Sand dunes and sandy beach. Ice plant, lupine.	Acquire and develop	SCCRC DPR City of Oxnard
Rincon Beach Strip	Sandy Beach	Retain public access. Prepare for public acquisition and development	DPR, Ventura County Caltrans, SCCRC
Santa Monica Mountains	Mountainous area, mostly over 25% slope, chaparral covered. Very important open space resource relatively undeveloped. The subject of much study and acquisition effort. See Southwest Hill and Valley listing also.	Continue study and acquisition. Possible support of federal legislation for Toyon National Park or its equivalent Possible special State legislation	DPR Ventura County US Government SCCRC City of Thousand Oaks

COASTAL PLANNING AREA  
Ventura County Portion Page 2

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Santa Barbara Channel Islands National Park (Proposed)	Islands of Anacapa and Santa Barbara. Currently form the Channel Islands National Monument. Park status would bring more funds. California Brown pelican (E).	Preserve and achieve designation	US Government
Santa Clara River Mouth	Estuarine area	Preserve and manage as wildlife habitat	City of San Buenaventura DFG
Solimar Beach	Sandy Beach	Retain public access. Prepare for public acquisition	DPR Ventura County
Yerba Buena Creek Shoreline area	Coastal sage, riparian vegetation and scenic vistas.	Acquire as part of Pt. Mugu State Park	DPR Ventura County
Existing Public recreation lands located on the Ventura County Coast	Faria Park Hobson Park Emma Wood State Beach McGrath State Beach San Buenaventura State Beach Seaside Park Channel Islands Harbor Park and Marina Hollywood Beach Silverstrand Beach Point Mugu State Park (see also Southwest Hill listing) Ventura Marina Ponds and Beaches Hueneme Beach Park Channel Islands National Monument Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands	Develop and expand where appropriate Preserve and protect	Ventura County DPR Cities of San Bernardino, Oxnard, Port Hueneme
Other public lands	Port Hueneme Seabee Center (USN) Point Mugu Pacific Missile Range (USN) San Nicholas Island (USN)	Study for public recreation if military declares surplus  Explore possible public uses compatible with military	Dept. of Defense

DESERT PLANNING AREA  
Imperial County Portion

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Action	Primary Responsibility
Agricultural Lands (croplands, feedlots and related)	<p>Nationally important lands-specialization in truck crops. Major source of off season vegetables. Large acres of potential prime land also.</p> <p>Major pollution problem from salts from poor irrigation water and from fertilizers.</p>	<p>Preserve current land use Bring more land into production Reduce pollution problems through water treatment installation of tile drains, etc.</p>	Imperial Co. (IC) Imperial Irrigation District (IID) Calif. Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) Cities of Imperial County
Alamo River	<p>Originates in Mexico Transports regular storm runoff, agricultural drainage, and raw sewage from Mexico to Salton Sea. High TDS and bacteria, no recreational use. Fifty-Two miles in California.</p> <p>Flood water hazard area.</p> <p>Habitat for many species of desert and riparian wildlife.</p>	<p>Improve water quality (This may need international agreement)</p> <p>Protect habitat Protect flood plain from inappropriate uses Preserve present BLM ownership</p>	Water Resources Control Board (WRCB) IC IID Possible Federal Government and Mexico BLM
Algondones Sand Dunes (Imperial Sand Hills) North of I-8	<p>Extensive Sand dune area. Fossil lake dune. Significant interdune areas.</p> <p>Heavy off-road vehicle recreation use</p> <p>Plank road-historical monument</p> <p>Fragile dune ecology significant flora and fauna are: Western diamondback rattler, vermillion ground snake, flat-tailed horned lizard, sidewinder, desert buckwheat (rare) and Spadefoot Toad,</p>	<p>Is a registered National Natural Landmark Plank Road is Natural Historic Landmark Area north of Glamis closed to ORV use by BLM</p> <p>Needs enforcement of ORV restrictions, perhaps further restriction. Federal acquisition of state school lands through trades.</p>	Bureau of Land Management (BLM) State Dept. of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Imperial County Dept. of Interior
Anza-Borrego State Park (a small portion, including the former Carrizo Impact Range is in Imperial Co. The majority of the park is in San Diego Co.)	<p>Carrizo area closed to public because of unexploded ordnance</p> <p>Carrizo Badlands are registered National Natural Landmark</p> <p>State designated "prime natural area"</p> <p>Range of Nelson and Peninsular (rare) Bighorn Sheep</p> <p>Carrizo Wash prime desert riparian</p>	<p>State-acquire holdings to consolidate sheep range Make trades with BLM to expand park boundaries Keep Carrizo Badlands closed to ORV use</p>	DPR BLM IC
Chuckwalla Mtns. and surrounding area (including Palo Verde Mtns)	<p>Part in IC but majority in Riverside Co. See that listing.</p>	<p>Preserve</p>	IID IC DWR BLM

## IMPERIAL COUNTY ... Page 2

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Colorado River (Topock Gorge/Parker Dam to Imperial Dam)	Major river in arid area. Riverine habitat. Scenic gorges. Heavy recreation and irrigation use. High TDS. Reservoirs at Parker, Imperial and Laguna dams. Significant lakes, marshes and wildlife habitat. Species include:  Calif. Clapper Rail (E)      Bonytail (E) Yuma Clapper (E)      Humpback Sucker (E) Calif. Black Rail (E)      Big horn Sheep (E) Colorado Squaw fish (E)      Calif. Yellow Bill Duckoo (R) Burro deer      Yuma Mtn. Lion	Expand wild areas and refuges Establish Picacho as a recreation area Enlarge public ownership along the river Limit channelization unless there is no other alternative BLM & DPR land trades to straighten boundaries and eliminate inholdings. Expand economic opportunities through recreation use on Indian lands	Calif., DPR & BLM for Recreation and habitat preservation. Imperial Co. for regional recreation areas SCS for channel projects and flood control BIA for Indian affairs
Special areas:		Maintain Maintain Maintain Maintain, expand Maintain, expand Acquire Allow public access	DOI DOI State State & BLM State & BLM State BIA and tribal council
Imperial National Wildlife Refuge Cibola National Wildlife Refuge Jaffin Wash Wildlife Management Area Picacho SRA Picadio Natural Area Yuma Island Yuma Indian Reservation	7958 acres mostly in Arizona 485 acres 4681 acres, 7 miles river front 154,000 acres (Picacho Mine Site of interest) wildlife values, 6 miles & 2100 acres riparian includes Fort Yuma historic landmark		
Flood Hazard Areas (New & Alamo Rivers, Colorado River, some streams west of Salton Sea)	Riparian habitat Flood Hazard after storms	prevent urbanization or inappropriate use, avoid channelization	BLM IF Imperial Irr. Dist.
Geothermal Areas	Deep hot brine wells with potential for electric power generation, mineral recovery and possible treated water for irrigation. One of the two prime geothermal areas in the state. Some sites are located in wildlife refuges and agricultural areas.	Develop experimentally with proper environmental safeguards. Future decisions depending on results.	IC State Energy Commission State Mines & Geology IID & BLM DPR (for sites on refuges)
Irrigation Canals (1600 miles)	Used for irrigation and agricultural runoff. Eventually, flow into Salton Sea. Are several major canals (all American, Coachella, Highline) and many small ones.	Maintain and keep clear Prevent water loss from evaporation and seepage	IC BLM IID DWR
Military Lands (Chocolate Mtns. Gunnery Range, Superstition Mtn. area, El Centro NPTR, Salton Sea Naval Base, small gunnery ranges, Salton Sea Parachute Range )	Varied depending on location of area, generally very good because of restrictions on access and uses.	Acquire for public use or habitat preservation when military uses end. Maintain current restrictions.	DPR BLM IC Department of Defense
Pumpkin Patch	Unique geologic formations-sand stone concretions	Protect, Prohibit private taking	BLM FC

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility														
Mineral areas	These appear to be few and limited in size. Known minerals are primarily of local concern.	Develop properly in accordance with laws and procedures. Require reclamation when deposits exhausted. Mining law of 1872 is still in effect, allowing claims on US government lands.	IC Division of Mines & Geology BLM														
New River	Originates in Mexico. 58 miles in Calif. Same considerations as Alamo River	See Alamo River	See Alamo River														
Salton Sea	<p>Approximately 250,000 acres, premium water way. Primary designated use is for agricultural drainage and seepage. Heavy recreational use for fishing, swimming, water skiing. Very high TDS and getting worse. Corbina and sargo only major fish that can survive and they may disappear in a few years. Water level rising. Located on Pacific Flyway. Migratory species include 250 species of birds is:</p> <table data-bbox="487 594 1039 676"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bald eagle (E)</td> <td>American osprey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peregrin Falcon (E)</td> <td>Western burrowing owl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wood ibis</td> <td>Yuma Clapper rail (E)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roseate spoonbill</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Resident species are:</p> <table data-bbox="487 722 921 787"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Calif. Brown pelican (E)</td> <td>Cattle egret</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Calif. Peregrin falcon (E)</td> <td>Snowy egret</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Calif. Clapper rail (E)</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>36,526 acres, only 2,600 dry land, remainder submerged. Water level is rising and destroying remaining marshland</p> <p>Low lying marshland. 4307 acres divided into three units, partially cultivated to provide food for waterfowl and to reduce crop predation. Units are Finney-Ramer 2044 acres natural, Hazard-Fleet 535 acres, 175 cultivated; Wister 5243 acres, 3340 cultivated.</p> <p>15 miles shoreline, 17,868 acres including land and water, has a number of mud pots and other geothermal features.</p>	Bald eagle (E)	American osprey	Peregrin Falcon (E)	Western burrowing owl	Wood ibis	Yuma Clapper rail (E)	Roseate spoonbill		Calif. Brown pelican (E)	Cattle egret	Calif. Peregrin falcon (E)	Snowy egret	Calif. Clapper rail (E)		<p>Stabilize water level Reduce salinity Reduce bacteria count Restrain urbanization</p> <p>There are a number of proposals for this</p> <p>Protect and acquire more marsh lands Control surrounding land uses</p> <p>Maintain and expand. Closely control development of geothermal resources</p> <p>Maintain and expand</p>	<p>DOI Resources Agency SWRCB Imperial Irr. Dist.</p> <p>DOI IC</p> <p>Resources Agency-Dept. of Fish &amp; Energy Commission</p> <p>DPR</p>
Bald eagle (E)	American osprey																
Peregrin Falcon (E)	Western burrowing owl																
Wood ibis	Yuma Clapper rail (E)																
Roseate spoonbill																	
Calif. Brown pelican (E)	Cattle egret																
Calif. Peregrin falcon (E)	Snowy egret																
Calif. Clapper rail (E)																	

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Salton Volcanic Domes	Unique geologic features, heavily altered by man. Under consideration as National Natural Landmark.	Registered as Landmark. If this is not done, then register as local landmark	DOI IC
San Felipe Creek Area	Registered National Natural Landmark. Last permanent flowing stream in Colorado Desert not destroyed by man. Habitat of desert pup fish. Prime archeological, historical, paleontological and ecological resource area. Mapped as flood hazard area.	Protect Restrict ORV use Restrict urban use	BLM IC DOC
Seismic Areas	Very large, extensive and active branches of San Andreas, San Jacinto and Elsinore fault zones. Some quakes but motion usually slow, continuous slippage at 1-2 inches per year.	Map and control urban uses, building codes Possible state mapping of hazard areas	IC Cities Div. Mines & Geology
Travertine Rock Area	Geologic formations, fossils	Acquire and protect through expansion of Anza-Borrego State Park	DPR
Trails (De Anza Trail, Pedro Fages Trail, Southern Emigrant Route, Yuma Crossing Kearney Route, Mormon Battalion Route, Butterfield Stage Route)	Similar east-west routes, much of length in Mexico to avoid sand dunes. Yuma Crossing is National Historic Landmark. Also two (2) crossings at Pilot Knob. These were principal southern routes into California	Designate and preserve, mark and provide interpretation centers	BLM DOI IC DPR
Truckhaven Archeological Site	Living site of Pluvial Age Man - very significant as one of the oldest finds in North America	State acquire as part of Anza-Borrego State Park Very strict protection	DPR IC DOC
Yuma Desert	160,000 acres top priority BLM land, heavy destructive recreation and ORV use. Principal features include Sand Chimneys and Painted Gorge, Davies Valley, Fossilized Oyster Beds and Ancient Shorelines. Ancient man sites (Yuma man possibly 26,500 years old) Giant Itaglios, Crucifixion Thorn area has unique plants, Coyote Mts. has paleontological values, Myers Valley, Pinto Canyon, Bighorn Sheep (E) habitat.	Designate Coyote Mtns. and possibly entire area as National Natural Landmark Fence sensitive areas Strong restrictions and enforcement on ORV use and taking of resources Locate Anza and Butterfield routes	BLM IC

## DESERT PLANNING AREA

## Los Angeles County

## Primary Responsibility

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Antelope Valley Region	<p>Large expanse of relatively little disturbed "high desert". Wide range of desert flora and fauna. These are described in sub areas to follow-all of Los Angeles County's portion of the Desert Planning Area is the Antelope Valley and the desert side slopes of the San Gabriel Mountains.</p> <p>Significant fauna include: Mojave ground squirrel (R), desert tortoise (R)</p> <p>Proposed intercontinental airport at Palmdale may change character of part of the valley.</p>	Preserve large tracts. Individual areas are treated below	Los Angeles County State government Palmdale city LA City Dept. of Airports BLM Corps of Engineers LAC DPR Flood Control Districts
Alpine Butte	Undisturbed desert butte. Sagebrush scrub, joshua tree woodland, herland	Existing public ownership needs expanding	LAC
Antelope Buttes and Fairmont Butte (Pappy Preserve)	California poppies bloom here in the spring. Also, sagebrush scrub, chaparral, valley grassland, herland	Complete Bond Act acquisition and expand possible private funding	DPR LAC
Aqueduct Bikeway	Bikeway along the California Aqueduct	Maintain Possible Landscaping & additional facilities	DWR
Black Butte & Three Sisters	Desert buttes, creosote scrub	Acquire and Protect	LAC
Boulder Canyon and Llano	Creosote scrub, chaparral, pinon-juniper woodland, foothill woodland	Acquire and maintain	LAC
Edwards AFB	Creosote, salt flats (mostly in Kern County)	Acquire if offered by military	DOD LAC
Littlerock Creek and Wash (see also Mountain Planning Area)	Permanent desert stream, large dam and reservoir open to recreation. Proposed new dam project. Sagebrush, creosote, chaparral, salt flats, riparian woodland	Maintain, acquire private land	LAC Palmdale Irrigation District
Lovejoy Buttes	Desert, creosote scrub, joshua trees	Acquire. Control urbanization	LAC
Neenach to Fairmont area (North of Lancaster Road)	Shadscale scrub, chaparral	Acquire and maintain	LAC
Northeastern Border Area (240th E & Avenue J)	Creosote scrub	Acquire and maintain	LAC

## DESERT PLANNING AREA

Los Angeles County Page 2

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Palmdale Reservoir	Fishing and boating. Located on the San Andreas fault	Develop regional park	LAC
Pinon Hills	San Gabriel Mountain foothills. Foothill woodland	Acquire and maintain	LAC
Pinto Butte	Desert butte. Creosote scrub, joshua trees	Acquire and maintain	LAC
Saddleback Butte State Park	2875 acre state park. Joshua tree woodland	800 acres to be added from Bond Act	DPR
San Andreas Fault Zone	Boundary of North American and Pacific Plates (Extends from Cape Mendocino to Sea of Cortez) Very active. Eligible as National Natural Landmark. Being mapped by state for public safety purposes.	Restrict urbanization in close proximity to it	LAC Div. Mines & Geology
Tehachapi Foothills (East of Gorman)	Important ecological area	Preserve and regulate	LAC
Vincent Slopes (North side of San Gabriel Mountains)	Important ecological area	Preserve and regulate	LAC USFS
Wildlife Sanctuaries LAC owned & operated	Representative desert scenery and wildlife Alpine Butte 320 acres Carl O. Gerhardy 455 acres Mescal 100 acres Theodore Payne 320 acres Phacelia 160 acres	Maintain and expand where possible	LAC

DESERT PLANNING AREA

Riverside County

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Andreas Canyon (see also Palm & Tahquitz Canyons)	Desert riparian, leads to Palm Springs	Acquire & Preserve	Riverside Co. (RC) BIA Aqua Caliente Indian Reservation San Bernardino National Forest Palm Springs
Box Canyon	Desert canyon bottom representation, geologic area Separates Mecca Hills and Orocopia Mtns.	Acquire & Preserve	RC BLM
Chocolate Mountains	Little disturbed desert habitat because it is a military gunnery range	Public acquisition if military declares surplus	DOD RC DPR
Chuckwalla Recreation Lands including Chuckwalla Mtns. and Valley, Mule, Little Chuckwalla and Palo Verde Mtns.	386,000 acres. Exceptional biological and geological values. undisturbed ecological values. Sizeable recreational use. Petroglyphs. Palms, Itagllos	Preserve. Control. Protect archeological sites.	BLM RC
Coachella Valley	Agricultural lands very important, extensive date groves, and canal system-principally Coachella canal Fish Traps archeological site Sand dunes-2 rare reptiles, 1 rare mammal, other restricted wildlife area from Windy Pt. to Indio along I-10	Preserve	RC, Cities Irrigation Districts BLM
Colorado River	Entire length prime waterway, heavy recreation and irrigation use, pollution problems. Very good riparian vegetation and habitat for rare and endangered species. Quien Sabe Point especially good riparian area	Acquire as much as possible and preserve - cooperate with Arizona Control water loss, siltation, erosion but reduce channelization	BLM RC Soil Conservation Service
Giant Desert Figures	Large itagllos located in Big Maria Mtns. Perhaps 1500 years old	Protect forcefully	BLM RC
Indian Reservations	Morongo, Mission Creek, Aqua Caliente, Torres Martinez, Cabazon, Colorado River and Augustine Rancheria reservations	-----	BIA Indian Tribes
Indio Hills	Geologic area, earthquake faults with groves of native palms located along fault traces	Acquire representative or sample groves, regulate and preserve	RC BLM

DESERT PLANNING AREA  
Riverside County page 2

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Joshua Tree National Monument	High desert mountains and valleys. Special geologic values, historic and archeological sites. Total monument 558,000 acres, a wilderness area of 372,000 acres is proposed. Bighorn Sheep (E) range. Creosote bush.	Congress should designate proposed wilderness area	National Park Service
McCoy Valley	Colorado Desert wash. Best ironwood wash complex in the Colorado Desert. Dove nesting area.	Preserve as botanical area.	BLM Fish & Game Div. Mines & Geology
Mecca Hills (see also Box Canyon)	45,000 acres, about half public. Major geologic values, classic badlands topography, steep canyons and colored clays. Heavy recreation use.	Keep closed to ORV use. Acquire private lands. Enlarge county park.	BLM RC
Orocopia Mountains	Very rugged hill terrain. Indian trails and archeological sites.	Preserve. Restrict ORV use	BLM RC
Palm & Tahquitz Canyons (See also Andreas Canyon)	Permanent streams in steep canyons, profuse vegetation and wildlife, archeologic and historic sites. Former heavy recreation use, now restricted. Habitat of Desert Slender Salamander (E)	Acquire for preservation and recreation. Protect sites	RC, DPR, BIA Aqua Caliente Indians, City of Palm Springs
Salton Sea	For values see Imperial County section. Salton Sea State Recreation Area extends into Riverside County	See Imperial County desert section	
Salt Creek	Area east of Salton Sea. Significant wildlife habitat	preserve	BLM
San Gorgonio River	Large seasonal desert wash. Wildlife habitat and flood hazard	Regulate and preserve, avoid structural flood control	RC
Santa Rosa Mtns. (see also RC portion of Mountain planning area)	Major bighorn sheep range in the state. Increasing recreation use. Prime areas at Martinez Canyon, Deep Canyon, Magnesia Spring. Bighorn Sheep are extremely sensitive to human invasion of habitat.	Acquire private land inholdings. Restrict ORV and recreation use.	BLM San Bernardino National Forest, RC, DPR, Rancho Mirage
Whitewater River	Seasonal river flowing from Mt. San Gorgonio through Coachella Valley to Salton Sea. Wildlife habitat and recreational use, flood hazard Experiencing development pressures	Regulate, acquire park lands	RC Cities of Palm Spring, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, Indio, and Coachella

## DESERT PLANNING AREA

## San Bernardino County Portion

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility								
Amargosa River	Seasonal stream with desert riparian habitat. Some permanent pools. Special wildlife include Tecopa pup fish (E) and relic crayfish. Dumont sand dunes adjacent to river provide specialized dune habitat.	Keep Amargosa River closed to ORV use, control ORV use in rest of area Protect fish habitat.	BLM								
Amboy Crater	Volcanic crater and associated formations	Restrict ORV to designated roads and trails consolidate ownership	BLM Private property owners								
Bighorn-Whitewater area	254,000 acre area, about 2/3 public. Adjacent to San Bernardino National Forest. Some real estate development but mostly natural area. Partially in San Bernardino County and partially in Riverside County Mixed joshua tree, pinon pine and juniper woodland	Acquire inholdings to consolidate ownership ORV use to existing roads and trails Control real estate development	BLM San Bernardino County (SBC)								
Calico Recreation Lands	208,000 acres total area, 69,000 of this is private land. Prime areas are: Black and Opal Mountains (including petroglyphs) Rainbow Basin-fossil area, National Natural Landmark Calico Ghost Town-operated by SBC Joshua View-rich Joshua tree woodland Calico "Early man" dig  Entire area heavily used and vandalized	Acquire private land  Set aside areas for recreation use with proper supervision  Patrol and protect forcefully	BLM SBC								
Colorado River	<p>Nevada state line to Lake Havasu-extraordinary "combination" stream of cold and warmwater fish, riparian habitat. Wildlife along entire river in San Bernardino County include:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Yuma clapper rail (R)</td> <td>Bighorn Sheep (R)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Humpback sucker (E)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bonytail (E)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Colorado Squaw fish(E)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Topock Gorge is a special area of significance in this stretch of river. (13,000 acres private, 19,000 acres BLM, 17,000 acres DFG). Gorge is good example of Tertiary volcanics, as is Redrock Gorge.</p> <p>Havasu Lake formed behind Parker Dam. Heavy recreation use. Several home developments on Arizona side. 20,000 surface acres</p> <p>Topock Gorge National Wildlife Refuge (in Arizona)</p> <p>Havasu Lake National Wildlife Refuge-7958 acres</p>	Yuma clapper rail (R)	Bighorn Sheep (R)	Humpback sucker (E)		Bonytail (E)		Colorado Squaw fish(E)		Coordinated planning by all concerned agencies on both sides of river. Form ad hoc regional planning group for preservation, recreation, agricultural and other uses.	BLM, SBC, DFG, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and wildlif, BIA, Soil Conservation Service, Bureau of Reclamation, M&D, DOI, RC, IC, City of Needles, State of Arizona
Yuma clapper rail (R)	Bighorn Sheep (R)										
Humpback sucker (E)											
Bonytail (E)											
Colorado Squaw fish(E)											

DESERT PLANNING AREA  
San Bernardino County Page 2

Area Names	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Coxcomb Mountains	192,000 acres public ownership. Relatively undisturbed desert ecological area. Desert tortoise (R) and Big Horn Sheep	Consolidate public holdings. ORV use to existing roads and trails	BLM
Death Valley National Monument	Part in San Bernardino County, Majority in Inyo County. Extraordinary wildlife and geologic values.	Maintain. Possible wilderness designation Restrict mining operations	National Park Service
Eastern Mojave Recreation Lands	<p>Total area about 825,000 acres, mostly public ownership</p> <p>Prime areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providence Mtns. (Mitchell Caverns) 5,245 acres, developed campground owned by DPR. Bighorn sheep, deer, pinon, junipers</li> <li>Clark Mountain 23,100 acres BLM closed to ORV use</li> <li>New York Mtns. including Fourth of July Canyon and Caruthers Canyon 14,000 acres BLM</li> <li>Wildhorse Canyon Area; Wildhorse Canyon, Wildhorse Mesa, Hole in the Wall, Black Canyon Wash 14,000 acres BLM</li> <li>Cima Dome 25,580 acres, perhaps finest of all stands of Joshua trees. Possible National Natural Landmark. BLM</li> <li>Mojave Cinder Cones 43,200 acres. Possible National Natural Landmark BLM</li> <li>Keiso Sand Dunes 29,000 acres. BLM closed to ORV us</li> </ul> <p>Some of the other areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Castle Buttes, Round Valley, Granite Mtns., Devil's Playground a sand adapted Community.</li> </ul>	BLM Should consolidate holdings and administer area.	BLM SGC DPR
Fort Piute & Piute Springs	6,000 acre area. Historical site. Fort to protect wagon trains from Indians, way station. Ruins remain. Also archeological values and petroglyphs. Little recreation use. Contains a running spring. Rich habitat because of water.	Acquire and consolidate inholdings and operate, Preserve ruins and petroglyphs. Protect Springs	BLM DOR Private property owners
Grapevine Canyon	28,000 acres on northern flank of San Bernardino Mountains. Habitat ranges from pinon forest to high desert types. Habitat in good shape.	Acquire inholdings. Continue close enforcement of ORV regulations	BLM
Indian Reservations	Are located along Colorado River including Fort Mohave, Chemehuevi and Colorado River reservations.	Develop economic and recreation activity	BIA and Indian tribes
Joshua Tree National Monument	Only a small part in San Bernardino County. See Riverside County for details		

## DESERT PLANNING AREA

San Bernardino County Page 3

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Kingston Peak	12,000 acre area. Archeological and natural values. Tortoise and bighorn sheep. Light recreational use.	Acquire inholdings	BLM
Lanfair Valley	Large high desert valley about half in public ownership. Joshua tree woodland in good condition.	Preserve & Protect land in Government Ownership	BLM
Military Lands	Very large holdings in this county including Twenty-Nine Palms Training Center (USMC), Fort Irwin (National Guard), China Lake NMC Range B (USN), Part of main China Lake NMC, Part of Edwards AFB, George AFB, Yermo USMC supply center, Cuddeback Gunnery Range	Maintain. Possible wilderness designation Acquire if made available	DOD State of California BLM SBC
Mojave River	From Deep Creek land West Fork to 10 miles north of Victorville Prime area	Annual stream from Lake Arrowhead to Soda Dry Lake runs mostly underground, surfaces at Mojave Narrows and Afton Canyon. Desert riparian waterway. Flood hazard.	Special attention to entire length of stream. BLM SRC DPR
Afton Canyon		18,000 acres (8,300 public, 9,700 private) 5 miles long, flowing river all year. Very good desert riparian habitat, history and archeology due to reliable water.	Acquire private land-operate for recreation and research BLM SBC DPR
Mojave Forks	Natural Wildlife Area	800 acres owned by DFG at the Forks. Desert riparian wildlife. Some fishing.	Enlarge and operate DFG Corps of Engineers SBC
Mojave Forks	Dam	At Mojave Forks. Will form reservoir for flood control. Future recreation use.	Establish recreation facilities BLM USFS
Rodman Mountains (including Ord & Granite Mtns)	454,000 acres. Excellent archeological values in eastern portion. Heavy recreation and ORV use. Prime natural habitat values.	Consolidate checkerboard ownership. Restrict ORV use to existing roads and trails.	BLM
Old Woman Mountains	116,000 acres. Considerable mining and prospecting in area. Bighorn sheep, mountain lions, juniper woodland. Some recreation use.	ORV restricted to existing roads and trails. Consolidate ownerships.	BLM
Oro Grande Wash (Baldy Mesa to Victorville)	Original cement mine in California, kiln still exists. ORV use. Mixed ownership	Consolidate ownerships. Enforce ORV rules	BLM
Pisgah Crater	Volcanic formation, biotic communities on recent basaltic formations. Located in Twenty-Nine Palms Marine Base.	If possible allow civilian access and Acquire Private inholdings	BLM DOD Private Property Owners
Randsburg Area	Lava & Argus Mtns. - Geothermal Values. Primitive Areas	Should be established by Acquiring any inholdings	BLM

DESERT PLANNING AREA  
San Bernardino County Page 4

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Trona (Tufa) Pinnacles	11,000 + acres. Best examples of tufa formations in North America. Eligible for registration as a National Natural Landmark. Mohave Ground Squirrel (R), Desert Tortoise (R)  Geothermal Values	Develop as a national recreation resource, control ORV use. Designate Landmark	BLM
Turtle Mountains (and Mopah Peaks)	97,000 acres. Highly scenic, outstanding geologic values. Little recreation use. Exceptional biological and ecological values. Eligible as a National Natural Landmark.	Designate landmark. Consolidate ownership Continue area closure to ORV use.	BLM
Whipple Mountains including Chemehuevi Wash & Gene Wash	110,000 acres (95,000 public) Out standing geologic and natural values; "the last example of wilderness remaining in the California desert." Bighorn sheep, burro deer	Consolidate holdings. Continue closure to ORV use.	BLM

MOUNTAIN PLANNING AREA  
Los Angeles County Portion

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Angeles National Forest	National forest of 641,000 acres, one quarter of Los Angeles County. Extremely important for ecological maintenance, recreation and watershed. Most of the following areas are parts of the national forest or on private inholdings	Preserve, consolidate ownerships, maintain, etc..	A very wide range of federal, state and local agencies with primary responsibility to USDA, USFS, Angeles National Forest
Angeles Crest Highway Corridor	State Route 2, state scenic highway corridor from La Canada to San Bernardino County line.	Preserve road, turnout vistas, recreation and visitor areas in keeping with scenic highway concepts	ANF Caltrans LAC Road Dept.
Angeles High Country Area	All timbered undeveloped land above 5,000 feet in main portion of forest. Pine and fir timber, a wide variety of wildlife, heavy all year recreational use.	Protect and develop for public use, acquire private land, implement High Country Plan by ANF.	ANF
Ancient Limber Pine Scenic Area	High Altitude areas around Mts. Baden-Powell. Trees are 1,000-2,000 years old and quite rare.	Designate and protect	ANF
Big Tujunga Canyon	Very important ecological, watershed and flood hazard area.	Protect from hazards, avoid development and structural flood control.	ANF
Bouquet Reservoir (and Bouquet Canyon)	Manmade lake of nearly 1,000 acres. Canyon with stream. Heavy use of canyon but lake is closed to public because it is a DWP water reservoir. Riparian vegetation and wildlife.	Open reservoir to limited public use, compatible with water supply needs	ANF DWP, City of Los Angeles LAC
Big Santa Anita Reservoir	Large reservoir located away from roads with large draw down. Healthy riparian habitat.	Preserve in current state, do not encourage recreational use	LAC FCD LAC ANF
Brown's Flat	Unique geologic area-ancient landslide has transported viable pine forest into brush area.	Preserve and protect	ANF
Crystal Lake and Pine Flat	Natural mountain lake, stocked, heavy recreation use. Lake and flat formed by ancient landslide.	Preserve and protect. Improve recreation opportunities	ANF
East Fork of San Gabriel River	Steep rugged area, very important area. Heavy recreation and fishing use. Riparian habitat. Major flood control problems affecting San Gabriel Valley.	Acquire private land. Continue study of flood control problems and resolve them.	ANF LACFCD
Elizabeth Lake	Large sag pond on San Andreas Fault. Grass land and riparian habitat.	Preserve and protect with proper development of facilities.	ANF LAC

MOUNTAIN PLANNING AREA  
Los Angeles County Portion Page 2

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Frenchman's Flat Reservoir	Part of State DWR Feather River Project. Surrounded by Chamise Brush and steep canyons.	Develop for public recreation use	ANF DWR
Gabrielino National Recreational Trail	28 mile length in Santa Anita Canyon to Arroyo Seco. First national recreational trail ever established.	Continued maintenance and realignment	ANF
Little Tujunga Canyon	Important ecological and watershed area.	Protect	ANF
Mescal Creek	Mountain canyon and stream. Riparian habitat.	Protect	ANF
Mount Baldy Corridor	Important ecological zone extending from forest boundary to peak of Mt. San Antonio (Baldy) very heavy recreational use.	Protect from further urbanization	ANF SSNF LAC SBC
Pacoima Reservoir	Dam broken by 1971 earthquake, now under repair. Riparian habitat. Not suited for recreation due to topography.	Preserve	ANF
Placerita Canyon	Historical site of first gold discovery in California. A state park leased to LAC. Important ecological area.	Preserve	DPR LAC ANF
Portal Ridge	Long ridge formed by San Andreas Fault. Important ecological area.	Protect and preserve	ANF
Quail Lake	Sag pond now used as a reservoir closed to public. Riparian habitat. Large drawdown.	Preserve habitat	DWR LAC
Pacifico Mtn. & Tie Canyon Area	Unique rock formations, rock climbing and camping. Important ecological area.	Preserve and protect	ANF
Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	Trail eventually to run from Canada to Mexico. Portion in LAC.	Complete linkages and improve	ANF LAC  DPR

MOUNTAIN PLANNING AREA  
Los Angeles County Portion Page 3

Area Name	Significance and Concern Value	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Pyramia Reservoir	Large reservoir part of DWR Feather River project. Recreation use and riparian habitat.	Protect and develop for recreation, improve access.	ANF DWR
San Gabriel River, San Gabriel Canyon Mouth, Fish Canyon, San Gabriel Escarpment Canyons	Very important for ecological maintenance, recreation and flood control. Intensive use. Three forks in river, E, W & N, stocked, permanent flow. Three reservoirs - Cooswell and San Gabriel open, Morris closed. See Southwest Hill and Valley listing for reach below Morris Dam.	Preserve and protect	ANF
San Antonio Canyon and Mouth	Part of Mt. Baldy Corridor, partially in LAC and part in SBC. Very important for flood control, ecology and recreation.	Preserve and Protect	ANF
Sawmill Canyon	Steep canyon area - southernmost range of Sierra foothill woodland and digger pine habitat types.	Preserve and Protect	ANF LAC DPR
Sycamore Canyon	Most important ecological area. Private land - boy scout camp.	Preserve current use. Public acquisition if use changes	LAC ANF Boy Scouts
San Gabriel Wilderness	Unique Wilderness extremely close to urban area.	Preserve & Protect	ANF
San Dimas Experimental Forest	Protect Watershed - has been studied and used for watershed research for past 40+ years.	Protect & continue present use	ANF

**MOUNTAIN PLANNING AREA**  
**Riverside County Portion**

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Black Mtn. Scenic Area	Rugged mountain and forest area. Ponderosa and Lodgepole pine	Forest Service classification action in cooperation	DPR SBNF
Garner Valley - Lake Hemet	Grassy valley surrounded by pine trees. Large heavily used Garner Valley now a ranch. Very strong pressures for development.	Acquire Garner valley and manage entire area	DPR RC Lake Hemet MWD
San Jacinto Mountain Area - SBNF and DPR	<p>Rugged mountain and forested area. Population of bald eagle, Peregrin falcon spotted owl, southern rubber boa, desert slender salamander, peninsula bighorn sheep - all rare or endangered species.</p> <p>Forested high country, lower elevations in chaparral with desert vegetation on eastern slopes.</p>	<p>Delineations and studies of wildlife habitat areas - protection and preservation of habitats</p> <p>Intensive management plans</p>	SBNF DPR Div. of Fish and Game RC RC Flood Control District IOC BIM
Santa Rosa Mountains SBNF	<p>Southern continuation of San Jacintos - but drier and provides more primary habitat for bighorn sheep.</p> <p>These areas receive intensive recreation use all year</p>		
Mount San Jacinto State Park and Addition (DPR) State Park Wilderness and Addition (DPR)	Rugged mountain area. Mt. San Jacinto, second highest peak in southern California at 10,786 feet. State designated wilderness within state park	<p>Acquire addition</p> <p>Acquire and designate as state wilderness</p>	DPR BIA, Aqua Caliente Indians
San Jacinto Wilderness (SBNF)	Ponderosa Jeffery and Coulter Pine forest. Wilderness area restrictions.	Maintain and expand	SBNF
Anza-Borrego State Park	Rugged, scenic area - habitat of Big Horn Sheep	Mountain & expands into So. part of Riverside County	RC BIM

MOUNTAIN PLANNING AREA  
San Bernardino County page 2

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Big Bear Lake and Surrounding area	Large artificial lake raised by dam, surrounded by ponderosa pine forest. Very heavy recreational and second home use.	Acquire private land on North side of lake. Strictly regulate land use in private unincorporated land.	San Bernardino County (SBC) San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF)
Cajon Creek	Permanent stream in dry brushy mountain pass. Fishing use. Chaparral and some riparian vegetation.	Preserve, protect	SBC SBNF DOC
City Creek	Permanent stream in dry area. Riparian vegetation. Some recreation fishing.	Preserve, protect	SBC SBNF DOC
Cucamonga Canyon Mylonites	Geologic area, large mylonite crystals. Chaparral and Bigcone Douglas Fir.	Cooperative agreement between SBNF & SBC for a classification action by FS to protect site.	SBC SBNF
Cucamonga Wilderness and wilderness expansion	Rugged wild area in SBNF. Mixed conifer and chaparral vegetation. Bighorn Sheep, some bear, mule deer. 9,022 acres.	Continue protection and expand. Coordinate with Angeles National Forest and Los Angeles County.	SBNF SBC ANF LAC
Flood Hazard areas	Canyons and watersheds that pose flood control problems: Lytle Creek Canyon Cajon Creek & Wash Deep Creek Canyon Mill Creek Canyon San Gorgonio River Canyon Whitewater Canyon	Regulate flood prone areas as preferable to structural flood protection	SBNF SBC
Lake Arrowhead and surrounding area (including Lake Gregory)	Artificial mountain lakes and pine forest. Heavily built up with a great deal of recreational use. Wildlife species being displaced, smog damage to trees. Rare species Southern Rubber Boa. Area drains into closed Lahontan basin presenting potential water quality problem. Much private land.	Protect remaining habitat, control development	SBNF SBC
Lower Lone Pine Canyon	Riparian, sage and chaparral habitat. Stream	Preserve and protect	DPR SBC SBNF
Lytle Creek	Permanent stream. Some fishing. Riparian vegetation.	Preserve and protect	SBNF SBC DPR DOC

MOUNTAIN PLANNING AREA  
San Bernardino County Page 2

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Mineralized Areas of SBNF	Rugged bluffs on North edge of SBNF. Very large limestone deposits. Commercial value. A few caves.	Control use and exploitation	SBNF Calif. Div. of Mines & Geol.
Mt. San Antonio (Mt. Baldy)	10,064 peak in San Gabriel Mtns. Alpine vegetation. Bighorn sheep, Limber pines. Heavy recreational use.	Preserve and protect	SBNF ANF SBC
Pinnacles Geologic Area	Peculiar rock formation, possibly volcanic. Chaparral, some Coulter Pine.	Preserve as geologic study area.	SBNF DPR Div. Mines & Geology
Quaking Aspen Stand	Isolated groves of quaking aspen (southern most in (U.S.) partially protected by San Gorgonio Wilderness. Groves intermingled with mixed conifer stands. Also a grove in Big Bear Area.	Proposed by state to classify as botanical study area	SBNF DPR
San Bernardino Mountains (all of range not otherwise specified)	Rugged to rolling mountain area. Mostly covered with mixed conifers above 5,000 feet, chaparral and desert vegetation below. Bighorn sheep, puma, bear.	Continue protection of both public and private land. Push use of SBNF off Rd. Vehicle Use Plan	SBC, SBNF, DPR Corps of Engineers Caltrans and many others
Santa Ana River (headwaters)	Many dendritic streams. Permanent flow, riparian vegetation. Some recreation use.	Preserve and protect	SBNF SSC
San Gorgonio Wilderness	Rugged Mountain Area. Mt. San Gorgonio (Grayback) highest point in Southern California at 11,502 feet. Mixed conifer and alpine vegetation, quaking aspen. Very heavy recreation use. Bighorn sheep.	Preserve and protect.	SBNF
Sheep Mountain Wilderness (proposed)	Area in both SBNF and ANF at East Fork of San Gabriel River. Proposed for preservation of habitat for bighorn sheep. Also black bear, mule deer, puma. Mixed conifer, alpine and chaparral vegetation.	Study proposed wilderness classification	SBNF ANF Div. of Fish & Game SBC FCD
Silverwood Lake	Large new reservoir on North side of SBNF formed as part of California aqueduct. Heavy and increasing recreational use.	Preserve and protect. Complete Heart Bar trade	DPR SBNF Dept. of Water Resources

MOUNTAIN PLANNING AREA  
San Bernardino County Page 3

Primary Responsibility

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Wildlife concerns, San Bernardino Mtns.	<p>Several areas of wildlife importance:            Cajon Dist. Spotted Owl, S. Rubber Boa (R), Peregrin Falcon (E)            Arrowhead Dist.-Bald Eagle(E), S. Rubber Boa, Spotted Owl            Big Bear Dist.-Same as above            San Gorgonio Dist.- Same as above</p> <p>Bighorn sheep (R) are widespread.</p>	Area studies and management plans to protect these species	SBNF Div. of Fish & Game
Winter sports areas	<p>Very heavily used in winter months as focus of snow play and skiing activity. Most are located on Forest Service property.            Major areas are:            Movie Slope, Green Valley, Snow Valley, Snow Forest, Snow Summit, Rebel Ridge, Mt. Baldy, and Gold Mine.</p>	Protect natural vegetation & wildlife habitat	ANF SBNF

MOUNTAIN PLANNING AREA  
Ventura County Portion

Area Name	Significance and Concern Value	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Cuyama-Piru Granite Highlands	Mountainous, timber covered area. Conifers & Live Oaks, brush slopes, mule deer.	Cooperative agreement	DPR LPNF
Deer Park-San Guillermo	Broken ridges and canyons. Part of headwaters of Cuyama River. Pinon pine, oak. Mule deer.	same as above	same
Pine Mountain - Sespe Creek	Timbered mountains-wide canyons with heavy cover. Sespe is permanent stream. Some fishing. Vegetation varies from riparian to pine with some chaparral and juniper mixture. Flyway for California condor. Phosphate and Gypsum Mines proposed.	Same as above. Possible wilderness area.	DPR LPNF Bureau of Mines, Dept. of Interior Audubon Society Ventura County
Sespe Creek Wildlife & Condor Sanctuary	Extremely rugged canyon in roadless area. Riparian vegetation with brushy slopes and peaks. Condor nesting and feeding area. Condors are nearly extinct and will not tolerate human intrusion. Largest carrion bird in the world, one of two surviving 60 million year old species.	Continue to operate as now. Possibly expand sanctuary. Cooperative agreement between DPR and LPNF. Sanctuary is operated by Audubon Society and no human activity is allowed in or over it.	DPR LPNF Audubon Society

SOUTHWEST HILL & VALLEY PLANNING AREA  
Los Angeles County Portion

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Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Big Tujunga Creek, Canyon & Valley (see also Mountain Listing)	Annual stream from mountain to Hansen Dam. Valley has benches illustrating stages of geologic uplift. Very important riparian habitat area, coastal sage, marsh, chaparral. Flood hazard.	Preserve and protect. Avoid alterations for flood control or roads unless strong need is proven and there is no other alternative.	Los Angeles County (LAC) Los Angeles City Angeles National Forest
Baldwin Hills	Low hills, currently vacant and developed with oil wells. Heavy urbanization pressure. County to acquire and eventually develop as a park. Abandoned reservoir.	Preserve and develop for recreation. Acquire entire area for public use	LAC LA City Dept. Water & Power DPR Culver City
Calabasas Peak	Important ecological area, chaparral, grassland, oaks	Preserve and protect	LAC
Castaic Reservoir	Large reservoir. Heavy recreational use and fishing. Riparian habitat.	Preserve and protect	DWR, DFG LAC
Chino Hills	Important ecological area, Meeting place of four counties. Carbon, Brea and Tonner Canyons important. Significant oak woodland area near Diamond Bar. Subject of multijurisdictional planning task force.	Preserve and protect, implement recommendations of Chino Hills Task Force.	LAC, SBC, RC, OC DPR Cities in area
Devil's Gate Reservoir	Flood control reservoir proposed for recreational use.	Preserve and develop for recreation	LAC
Encino Reservoir	Important ecological area, DWP storage reservoir, public use restricted.	Open to some public use where compatible with water supply needs	LA City Dept. Water and Power
Franklin Canyon Reservoir	Important ecological area, DWP storage reservoir, public use restricted.	Open to some public use where compatible with water supply needs	LA City Dept. Water and Power
Hansen Dam, Lake & Flood area to Southwest	Important ecological area, regional park, aquifer recharge. Heavy recreation use.	Preserve and protect. Improve recreation facilities.	LA City Corps of Engineers
Hayes Canyon (west of Newhall)	Most important ecological area, coastal sage scrub, shadscale scrub, chaparral.	Preserve and protect	LAC
Kentucky Springs	Important ecological area, chaparral and piñon-juniper woodland	Preserve and protect	LAC
Lake Hughes	Natural lake, riparian habitat. Heavy boating, fishing, swimming use. Lake owned by Forest Service, shoreline privately owned.	Preserve and protect. Improve available recreation facilities.	Angeles National Forest LAC

SOUTHWEST HILL & VALLEY PLANNING AREA  
Los Angeles County Portion Page 2

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Las Flores Canyon, Carbon Canyon Saddle Peak (Santa Monica Mtns.)	Important ecological area for coastal sage, chaparral, Riparian and annual streams.	Preserve and protect	LAC
Las Virgenes	Important ecological area for coastal sage and shadscale, pinon juniper, foothill and southern oak woodland.	Preserve and protect. Acquire where needed	LAC DPR
Los Angeles River	Concrete flood control channel, important for trails use. Some degraded riparian habitat.	Develop appropriate recreation facilities	LAC, LAC Flood Control Corps of Engineers
Lyon Canyon	Important ecological area for chaparral.	Preserve and protect	LAC
Madrona Marsh	Last example of vernal marsh in urban area. Extremely important ecological area.	Acquire and protect	City of Torrance DPR LAC
Malaga Canyon	Important ecological area for coastal sage and chaparral	Preserve and protect	Palos Verdes Estates LAC
Montebello Oil Fields Area	Open Space - good potential for wildlife habitat	Potential Open Space Wildlife area.	LAC, City of Montebello
Malibu Canyon and watershed (see also coastal listing)	Last unspoiled permanent stream in southern Los Angeles County. Priority sand supply and riparian habitat and coastal sage scrub. Occasional steel head runs. Very scenic area.	Acquire and protect. Restrict development and road building, especially in Malibu Canyon/Cold Creek Area	LAC DPR
Rio Hondo	Concrete soft bottom flood control channel. Important for trails and Whittier Narrows regional park. Degraded riparian habitat.	Establish trails and beautification program in cooperation with cities along stream	LAC Cities LAC Flood Control District
Rustic and Sullivan Canyons	Important riparian habitat. Under heavy development pressure.	Preserve and protect	Los Angeles City
Ramirez Canyon	Important for sand supply and riparian habitat.	Preserve and protect	LAC
San Dimas Reservoir	Flood control reservoir used for fishing. Riparian habitat.	Preserve and protect	LAC LAC Flood Control district
San Gabriel River (below Morris Dam, for reaches above see Mountain area listing)	Permanent stream, very good water way from Morris Dam to Santa Fe Flood Control Basin. Corp of Engineers and LA County to develop as recreation area. Concrete below to the sea. Trails use and possibility of linear parks.	Develop recreation facilities along banks and at Santa Fe dam.	LAC Corps of Engineers Cities along river

SOUTHWEST HILL & VALLEY PLANNING AREA  
Los Angeles County Portion Page 3

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
San Francisquito Canyon	Important ecological area for coastal sage scrub, chaparral and riparian habitat.	Preserve and protect	LAC
San Rafael Hills	Important ecological area for chaparral habitat	Preserve and protect	LAC Glendale Pasadena
Santa Clara River (LAC portion)	Unaltered seasonal flood plain and marsh, some parts of stream have permanent flow. Riparian habitat and coastal sage scrub. Sole habitat of unarmored threespine stickleback (E). Flood control hazard and urbanization pressures.	Preserve and protect as open space corridor and habitat. Use nonstructural means of flood hazard control.	LAC LAC Flood Control District Corps of Engineers
Santa Susana Mountains Santa Susana/Oak Ridge	Rugged hills rock outcroppings. Important ecological area for coastal sage scrub, chaparral, foothill woodland. Proposed regional park	Acquire and develop appropriate recreation facilities	LA City DPR
Santa Monica Mountains	Portion of Transverse Range extending from county line to Elysian Park. Most of the important areas have been listed separately in Southwest Hills and Coastal lists. Diverse and viable habitats. Geologically unstable. Very heavy recreational use and urbanization pressures. The importance of this open space area to the region cannot be overestimated. Area has been the subject of much concern, study and planning. Proposed urban national park among much acquisition activity. Proposed Mulholland Corridor.	Continue local and state park acquisition and development. Implement urban national park proposal. Regulate development to maximize open space, fire and flood protection. Designate and develop Mulholland Corridor as a scenic parkway with trails.	LAC Ventura County LA County flood control district Bureau of Outdoor Recreation DPR US Congress-Dept. of Interior City of Los Angeles, Beverly Hills Thousand Oaks, Hidden Hills SCRC City of Santa Monica
Santa Ynez Canyon and Temescal Canyon	Priority sand supply source important habitat for coastal sage scrub, fresh water streams and marshes, riparian growth.	Preserve and protect	LA City SCRC
Sierra Madre Reservoir	Small flood control reservoir, city of Sierra Madre has 1,000 acre wilderness around its riparian and chaparral habitat.	Preserve and protect	City of Sierra Madre LAC LAC flood control district ANF
Stone Canyon Reservoir	Department of Water and Power reservoir. Public access restricted. Riparian habitat.	Open to Public use where compatible with water supply needs	DWP LA City LAC
Silverlake		Preserved & developed for recreation	LA City

## SOUTHWEST HILL &amp; VALLEY PLANNING AREA

Los Angeles County Portion Page 4

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Trancas Canyon	Priority sand supply. Important ecological area for coastal sage scrub, chaparral and riparian, seasonal stream.	Preserve and protect	LAC SCRC
Tuna Canyon and watershed	Priority sand supply. Permanent stream. Riparian habitat. 88 species of birds use area.	Preserve and protect	LAC SCRC
Verdugo Mountains	Steep hills between LA Basin and San Gabriel Mountains. Relatively unspoiled. Chaparral habitat. Urbanization encroaching on slopes and canyons. Fire and flood hazard. Proposals for large development and roads. Proposed regional park.	Preserve and protect regulate urban use. Plan for regional park.	LAC Burbank Glendale LA City
Van Norman Lakes	Department of Water and Power reservoir. Public access restricted. Dam broken in 1971 earthquake, now being rebuilt.	Open to public use where compatible with water supply needs	DWP LA City
Walnut Creek area & San Jose Hills	Important ecological area. Riparian habitat, existing Audubon bird sanctuary. Proposed conservation area. Existing nature trail.	Preserve and protect. Acquire appropriate land	LAC City of Covina City of Walnut Audubon Society
Whittier-Narrows Area	Important ecological area - Regional Park - Riparian habitat, existing Audubon Sanctuary.	Preserve & protect - Acquire appropriate land	LAC City of Whittier Audubon Society

SOUTHWEST HILL & VALLEY PLANNING AREA  
Orange County Portion

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Aliso Creek	Flooding, creek, canyon and watershed. Riparian habitat.	Preserve and protect as greenbelt	Orange County (OC) DOC
C. I. The Hills	Large hills with prominent features, grassland and oak woodland. Proposed major airport. Large development pressures. Subject of an interjurisdictional planning task force. Includes area Canyon and reservoir. At the junction of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.	Joint agency action to preserve according to task force recommendations	OC, RC, LAC, SBC Cities in Area DPR DOC
Chileno Valley Corridor (Canyon)	San Juan Creek to San Diego County line, riparian habitat.	Preserve and protect	OC DOC
Cleveland National Forest	52,000 acres in Orange County primary use is watershed. Major public recreation and wildlife habitat use. Environmentally in good shape. Special areas are: Holy Jim Canyon and falls Saddleback (between Modjeska & Santiago Peaks) Wilderness area proposals at Hot Springs Canyon, Falls Canyon, Maple Spring, Yeager Mesa, Pleasant Peak.  Flood prone areas at Silverado Canyon, Trabuco Canyon, San Juan Canyon.	Preserve and protect. Acquire inholdings Develop more recreation facilities	CNF OC
El Modeno Hills	Hills with grassland and chaparral habitat.	Preserve and protect	OC DPR DOC
Laguna Canyon Laguna Lakes Laguna Greenbelt	Priority riparian habitat and sand supply. Chaparral and coastal sage scrub.	Preserve and protect	OC City of Laguna Beach DOC
Miguel Lake	Fresh water marsh (uncommon) and priority habitat. Sand supply.	Preserve and protect	OC
Oso Creek	Tributary to Trabuco Dr. Priority riparian habitat.	Preserve and protect	OC CNF
Pelican Hill	Rare, little disturbed coastal sage scrub, priority habitat.	Preserve and protect	OC DOC
Prima Deschera Canada and Corridor	Coastal Canyon, Riparian habitat	Preserve and protect, establish park when landfill completed	OC DOC
Peter's Canyon Wash	Riparian habitat - links Upper Newport Bay with Santiago Creek	Preserve & Protect	OC
"The Sinks"	On Irvine Ranch - Scenic Wash	Preserve & Protect	OC City of Irvine
Coyote Hills	Little disturbed hill area of 1500 Acres, near urban Open Space	Acquire, Preserve & Protect	OC City of Fullerton

SOUTHWEST HILL & VALLEY PLANNING AREA  
Orange County Portion Page 2

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Santa Ana River	Permanent flow in part soft bottom and part concrete channel. Some spreading grounds. Very large flood hazard. Degraded riparian habitat and some fresh water marsh. Planned greenbelt along river from mouth to county line.	Ease flood damage threat with emphasis on nonstructural means. Establish regional parks and improve greenbelt. Restore marsh at mouth and Talbert	OC, DWR, Greenbelt Commission Corps of Engineers Upstream counties of SS and SOC
Santiago Creek and Greenbelt Santiago reservoir (Irvine Lake)	Permanent stream with good riparian habitat. Large reservoir with recreation use. Has planned greenbelt. Water somewhat polluted.	Preserve and protect Clean up water	OC Greenbelt Commission
San Joaquin Marsh	200 acre freshwater marsh owned by University of California. 60 bird, 14 plant, 16 reptile species.	Preserve and protect for environmental and educational purposes	OC UCI
San Joaquin Hills	Coastal hills, sand supply source, riparian habitat oak woodland, coastal sage scrub, resident deer herd.	Preserve and protect	OC SOC
San Juan Creek	Includes creek, canyon, and mouth. Area also includes Lower Ortega, Canada Chiquita, Canada Gobernadora, Bell Canyon, Ortega Corridor, Verdugo Corridor. All prime riparian habitat and sand supply source.	Preserve and protect	OC SOC
Salt Canyon Salt Creek Corridor	Priority sand supply and riparian habitat.	Preserve and protect	OC
South Laguna Hills	Coastal hills, unusual association of rare and endemic plant species, priority habitat area.	Preserve and protect	OC SOC
Starr Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary	4000 acres managed by the Audubon Society. Various associations of wildlife habitat.	Preserve and protect	OC SOC
Sulfur Canyon	Riparian habitat and sand supply.	Preserve and protect	OC
Trabucco Canyon	Riparian habitat and sand supply.	Preserve and protect	OC
Weir Canyon	Riparian habitat and sand supply.	Preserve and protect	OC
Wood Canyon	Riparian habitat and sand supply.	Preserve and protect	OC

SOUTHWEST HILL & VALLEY PLANNING AREA  
Riverside County Portion

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Aqua Tibia Proposed Wilderness	Mountainous, brush covered valleys and ridges, sparse tree cover on peaks.	Support Forest Service recommendation to create wilderness	Cleveland National Forest Riverside County (RC) San Diego County
Bautista Creek	Brushy and rocky canyon bottom, riparian habitat	Preserve and protect	RC DOC
Chino Hills and Prado Basin	Grassy hills, large Prado Dam across Santa Ana River with flood control basin. Existing and proposed recreation in basin. Proposals to raise dam as an alternative in flood control project for Santa Ana River. Area part of Chino Hills Task-Force study and planning area.	Studies, acquisition and development plans	RC DFG Corps of Engineers Chino Hills Task Force DOC
Crown Valley (Lake Skinner-Auld Valley Reservoir)	Large reservoir and surrounding riparian habitat.	Acquire and develop for recreation use	DPR RC
De Luz Creek	Canyon bottom with stream and riparian habitat	Preserve and protect	Riverside & San Diego Counties
Dorland Ranch	Open grass meadows, oak woodland, some marsh.	Preserve, acquire, protect	RC DPR, DOC
Indian Creek	Creek and riparian habitat.	Preserve and protect	RC Water Districts, DOC
Lake Elsinore	Lake dependent upon purchased water to maintain level. State Recreation area. Heavy recreation use.	Preserve, solve water level problems	DPR RC
Lake Mathews	Reservoir owned by MWD. Closed to public. Good riparian habitat around reservoir.	Studies, operating and development plans	RC MWD
Mockingbird Canyon	Canyon, riparian and chaparral vegetation.	Acquisition and development	RC DPR
Murrietta Creek	Seasonal stream, riparian habitat	Acquisition and development	DPR RC
Pechanga Indian Reservation	Reservation at southern edge of county	Preserve and develop as appropriate	BIA
Perris Reservoir and recreation area	Large reservoir. State recreation area. Projected intense use.	Preserve and develop facilities as appropriate	DPR
Railroad Canyon Reservoir	Reservoir in narrow canyon. Recreation use.	Preserve and protect. Develop additional recreation facilities	RC DPR Water District DOC

**SOUTHWEST HILL & VALLEY PLANNING AREA**  
**Riverside County Portion Page 2**

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
San Jacinto River and Flood plain	Flows from mountains to Lake Elsinore via Railroad Canyon. Flood plain hazard. Riparian vegetation.	Preserve and protect	RC DOC
Santa Ana River	Permanent stream through county. Major flood hazard. Riparian habitat, some fishing ponds. Proposed wilderness park being implemented.	Preserve, protect, continue acquisition and development of recreation facilities to form greenbelt or chain of parks	RC DPR DRC DOC
San Timeteo Wash	Seasonal stream and wash. Desert riparian habitat. See also San Bernardino County listing.	Preserve and protect	RC SRC DNR, DOC
Slaughterhouse Canyon	Brushy canyon on east slope of mountains. Oak and chaparral Riparian habitat	Preserve and protect	RC DOC
Soboba Indian Reservation	Reservation at West base of mountains. Hot springs area.	Preserve and develop as appropriate	BIA Tribal Council RC
Sycamore Canyon	Riparian habitat	Preserve and protect	RC DOC
Temecula River	Riparian habitat	Preserve and protect	RC DOC
Temecula Canyon	Not connected to Temecula River, is the course of Santa Margarita River. Riparian habitat.	Preserve and protect	RC San Diego County, DOC
Temescal Wash	Riparian habitat	Preserve and protect	RC DOC
Tucalota Creek	Riparian habitat	Preserve and protect	RC DPR, DOC
Whitewater River	Seasonal desert wash - see Riverside County listing		

## SOUTHWEST HILL AND VALLEY PLANNING AREA

San Bernardino County Portion

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Cable Canyon Creek	Vegetated canyon in low foothills. Intermittent stream. Riparian chaparral habitat.	Preserve and protect	SBC DFG DOC
Chino Hills	Prominent hill area at juncture of four counties. Undeveloped but under intense pressure. Grassland and oak woodland habitat. Proposed major airport. Existing oil wells. Subject of interjurisdictional planning task force.	Preserve and protect. Implement recommendations of Chino Hills Task Force	SBC RC LAC OC DPR DOC
Cucamonga Creek	Seasonal wash and flood plain. Riparian and sagebrush habitat. Proposed flood control projects.	Preserve and protect. Encourage flood plain management and non-structural flood control. Percolation basin studies	SBC Corps of Engineers Flood Control District DFG DOC
Etiwanda, Day & Deer Creeks	Vegetated canyons in foothills. Seasonal stream flow. Riparian and sagebrush habitat.	Preserve and protect percolation basin	SBC SBNF County Flood Control DFG
Jurupa Hills	Isolated hills North of Santa Ana River in the flood plains. Sage and chaparral.	Preserve and protect for open space and public recreation	SBC DOC
Lytle Creek and Cajon Wash	Two washes combining and reaching Santa Ana River. permanent stream flow. Willow, sage and grass.	Preserve and protect for flood control and water spreading	SBC County Flood Control
Rialto Flood Control Area	same as above		City of Rialto
Sam Timeteo Wash	Vegetated wash in foothill area. Intermittent stream flow. Riparian habitat. Crosses county boundary to Riverside.	Preserve and protect for flood control and water spreading	SBC RC Flood Control Districts
Santa Ana River	Vegetated wash in foothills, somewhat barren to Riverside County. Riparian vegetation in foothills lower reaches cleared for flood control. Permanent flow.	Preserve and protect for flood control and spreading grounds	SBC Flood Control District
Twin Creek Wash	Wash running from forest boundary to Highland Avenue. Cleared and used for flood control and park.	Preserve and protect	SBC Flood Control District DOC

SOUTHWEST HILL & VALLEY PLANNING AREA  
Ventura County Portion

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Aliso Canyon Park (Proposed)	Riparian and woodland along on unaltered creek. Mule deer, quail. Agricultural and orchard lands.	Acquire and preserve	Ventura County City of San Bueno Ventura
Arroyo Conejo	Row and orchard crops. Riparian vegetation. Steep walled canyons. Oak woodlands-deer, raccoon, quail.	Acquire and preserve	Ventura County DFG Water Districts City of Thousand Oaks
Arroyo Simi Area	Riparian and oak woodland. Creek.	Acquire and preserve	City of Simi Valley Casitas MWJ Ventura County DPR LPNC
Bards Dale.	Agricultural and orchard lands.	Preserve and protect open space	Ventura County City of Fillmore
Big Mountain (Tapo Canyon)	Steep mountain and canyon area. Chaparral and riparian habitat.	Preserve and protect	Ventura County DFG
Calleguas Creek	Creek and flood plain. Empties into Mugu Lagoon. Agricultural use, riparian vegetation. Creek in fairly natural condition-proposed channelization.	Preserve and protect	Ventura County DFG
Cañada Larga	Wide creek bottom land, steep side walls. Riparian vegetation agriculture, oak woodland and chaparral in slopes.	Preserve and protect	Ventura County DFG
Casitas Pass Valley	Steep, rugged slopes, heavily vegetated. Chaparral and riparian habitat.	Preserve and protect	Ventura County DFG Los Padres National Forest
Conejo Creek	Agricultural lands in valley floor. Riparian vegetation. Mule deer, quail.	Regulate, preserve open space use	Ventura County
Conejo Mountains	Steep slopes, wildlife habitat. Oak woodland and chaparral	Regulate and preserve	Ventura County City of Thousand Oaks
Del Norte	Flood plain and river bottom land. Row and orchard crops	Preserve and protect	Ventura County City of Oxnard
East Ojai	Agricultural Land. Aquifer recharge.	Preserve and protect	Ventura County City of Ojai Water District
Fairview	Agricultural land, aquifer recharge	Preserve and protect	Ventura County Water Districts
Fillmore Piru agricultural area	Agricultural land along Santa Clara River. Large aquifer recharge.	Preserve and protect	Ventura County Water Districts City of Fillmore

SOUTHWEST HILL & VALLEY PLANNING AREA  
Ventura County Portion Page 2

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibilities
Gonzales Road Area	Agricultural Land	Preserve and protect	City of Oxnard Ventura County
Happy Camp Canyon	Canyon bottom, riparian vegetation, oak woodland. Aquifer recharge.	Acquire and preserve	Ventura County DFG Water Districts
Lake Casitas and watershed	Large reservoir with oak woodland and shoreline. Remainder of watershed chaparral. Heavy fishing and recreation use. Lake operated by Casitas MWD, recreation facilities leased to concessionaire.	Develop recreation facilities as a public regional park. Improve facilities. Cooperative agreement with agreement with LPNF and other Government agencies for planning and use of land for open space, since lake is near forest boundary	Casitas MWD Ventura County DPR LPNF Bureau of Reclamation
Los Posas Valley	Agricultural Land.	Preserve and protect	Ventura County Water Districts
Olivas Agricultural Area	Flood Plain, row and orchard crops	Preserve and protect	Ventura County City of Ventura
Oxnard Plain	Agricultural land, row and orchard crops. Heavy urbanization pressure.	Preserve and protect	Ventura County, City of Oxnard, City of Camarillo
Piru Creek and Lake	Natural stream, and reservoir. Oak woodland and chaparral. Heavy fishing and recreation use.	Proposed regional park. Needs agreement with Los Padres National Forest	Ventura County, Water Districts, LPNF, DWR, DFG, DPR
Red Mountain	Steep slopes, many landslides, chaparral.	Preserve and protect. Avoid structural flood control and develop open space corridor.	Water Districts Ventura County Bureau of Reclamation
San Antonio Creek	Narrow creek bottom. Riparian and oak woodland habitat. aquifer recharge.	Preserve and protect	Ventura County, Water Districts City of Ojai
Santa Clara River and flood plain	large seasonal stream and floodplain. Riparian habitat. Agricultural use. Recent steelhead runs in winter. Proposed structural flood protection.	Preserve and protect	City of San Buenaventura Ventura County, Water Districts Corps of Engineers, DFG, DPR City of Fillmore, City of Santa Paula
Santa Monica Mountains	Extremely important ecological area - most important parts listed separately. See Los Angeles County listings.	Preserve, protect, regulate, acquire	Ventura County DPR
Santa Paula Creek - Santa Paula Canyon	Permanent stream heavily vegetated canyon. Oak woodland and riparian.	Preserve and protect. Acquire recreation land. Avoid structural flood control.	Ventura County, Water Districts DPR, DFG City of Santa Paula

SOUTHWEST HILL & VALLEY PLANNING AREA  
Ventura County Portion Page 3

Area Name	Significance and Concern Values	Proposed Actions	Primary Responsibility
Santa Paula Greenbelt	Agricultural area on terraces and benches along Santa Clara River. Aquifer recharge.	Preserve and protect	Ventura County Water Districts
Santa Paula Foothills	Steep slopes, oak woodland and chaparral habitat, aquifer recharge area.	Preserve and protect	Ventura County, Water Districts, DFG
Santa Paula-Fillmore Agricultural area	Agricultural crop lands along Santa Clara River. Aquifer recharge.	Preserve and protect	Ventura County, Water Districts, Cities of Santa Paula & Fillmore
Santa Rosa Valley	Agricultural area. Aquifer recharge.	Preserve and protect	Ventura County Water Districts
Sulphur Mountain	Steep slopes, oak woodland and chaparral habitat.	Preserve and protect	Ventura County DFG
Santa Susana Mountains	Rugged area, chaparral and oak woodland. Rock outcroppings. Proposed mountain park area in both Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.	Acquisition and Development plans and actions, preferably an interjurisdictional effort	Ventura County, Los Angeles Co., DPR
Simi Hills	Steep hill area, chaparral, oak woodland habitat.	Preserve and protect	Ventura County, City of Simi Valley
Simi Greenbelt	Grassland, chaparral, oak woodland habitat.	Preserve and protect	Ventura County, City of Simi
Ventura River	Seasonal river, lower portion in levees. Riparian and oak woodland. Some fishing, native trout in upper reaches, occasional steelhead runs. Flood plain hazards.	Retain as open space corridor from Ventura to Los Padres National Forest. Acquisition plans. Improve fishing habitat for trout and steelhead.	Ventura County, City of Ventura, DFG
Ventura Foothills	Rugged hills north of city, chaparral covered.	Preserve and protect	Ventura County, Water Districts DFG
Ventu-Park Mountains	Steep slopes, chaparral covered. Open space buffer	Preserve and protect	Ventura County, City of Thousand C
South Mountain	Agricultural and grazing area. Grassland, oak woodland habitat. Aquifer recharge.	Preserve and protect	Ventura County Water Districts
Sespe Condor Sanctuary	Area set aside for the preservation of the endangered Condor.	Preserve & Protect	Los Padres N.F. National Audubon Soc.
Upper Ojai Valley	Agricultural & grazing area. Oak woodland & historic area. Retain as Open Space buffer area	Preserve & Protect	Ventura County DFG Los Padres N.F.

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STAFF:

Mark A. Pisano, Executive Director  
Barton R. Meays, Deputy Executive Director  
Frank E. Hotchkiss, Acting Director of Planning  
W.O. Ackermann, Jr., Director of Transportation

AUTHORS:

Brian W. Farris, Senior Planner  
Thomas A. Neff, Forester, USDA  
Teri Jamin, Intern  
Ken Koyama, Intern

With the Assistance of:

Ida Maria Molinari, Secretary  
Susanna Berzsenyi, Graphics  
Simon Udell, Graphics  
Catherine Floyd, Production

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